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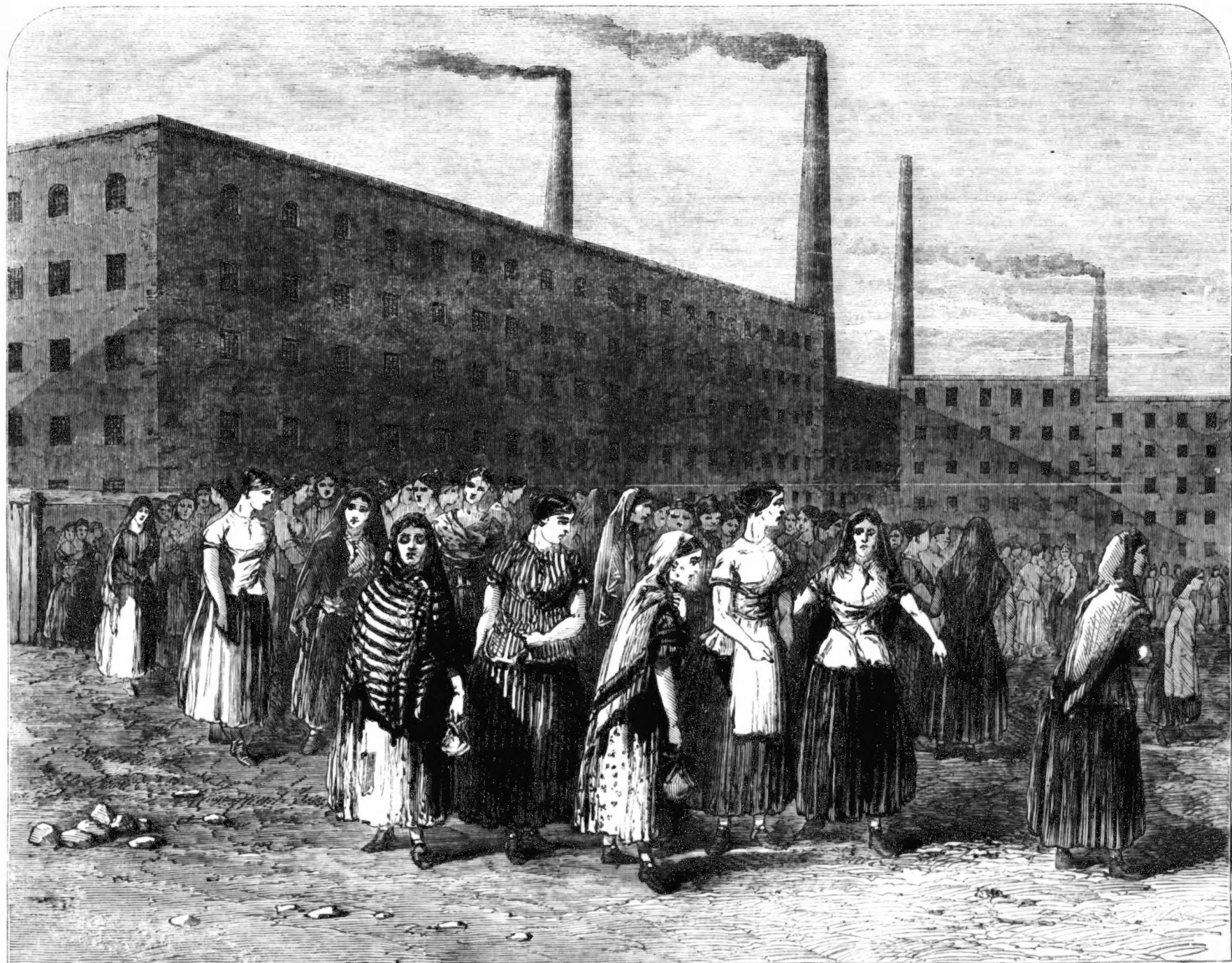
OUR FOREIGN VISITORS.

AMUSING as many of the accounts of England and the English published by our French visitors undoubtedly are, it appears to us that rather too much attention is paid to the errors into which they are constantly falling, and also that these errors are viewed too much in detail and as mere absurdities, whereas they also serve to throw a light on the capacity and acquirements of those who make them, and are, indeed, calculated to give us an idea of France, or rather of French journalism, far juster than any which they afford of no matter what sphere of English life. If an artist paints a portrait which has the disadvantage of not being like the original to such an extent that the non-resemblance can be proved by mensuration and arithmetic—if, for instance, he represents his model with a mouth not of the natural size but extending from ear to ear, and with one eye instead of two, then we are led not merely to reject the portrait but to inquire how it can have happened that the pretended likeness should be so wanting in the very essentials of such a production? Some of our French painters, skilful draughtsmen and brilliant colourists as they are, have evidently been guilty of the slight artistic as well as moral mistake of describing what they have not seen, or at least have not looked at. From their portrayals of English life and cha-

acter we learn, not what English life and character look like to a Frenchman, but simply what the French journalist imagined them to be before coming to London to study them and afterwards neglecting to do so. If we want to know what the ordinary, clever, unobservant, or rather partially observant, but at the same time quick-witted, Frenchman thinks of us, we can find that out from the letters of the majority of the London correspondents of the French newspapers, but we cannot discover that he has learnt anything about us from recent experience. Some particular scenes, such as a public dinner, the interior of a music-hall, the Haymarket by night, and so on, have been well enough described, because described from the life; but every now and then the London correspondent of a Parisian newspaper speaks of having seen things which assuredly never met his eye; and, after a slight examination of his performances, it is easy to perceive that part of his art consists in never confessing that he is narrating at secondhand that which it is charitable to believe can only have been communicated to him by some ill-informed and more or less malicious friend. We find one correspondent stating that the English are a brutally-disposed people. That may or may not be the case. An Act for preventing cruelty to animals was passed by the English Parliament, and casuists are, of course, at liberty to argue that if cruelty were not

practised in England there would be no necessity for legislating against it. So cock-fighting, bull-baiting, and such like sports have been abolished by law in England but are still tolerated in France, while bullfights in the Spanish style have been actually introduced into the south of France quite lately under the sanction and auspices of the Imperial Court. Ingenious logicians may form as perverse theories as they please on the basis of the above facts, but when we meet with a gentleman who tells us that he saw a mountebank kick a woman in the public street, and that no one knocked him down, we know that he lies—under a mistake. It is disgraceful enough to our civilisation that drunken ruffians should sometimes maltreat women in their houses and homes; but every foreigner who has lived a short time in London knows that no such violence could be practised for a moment in the presence of lookers-on, and that even men in such cases are prevented, by the general sense of justice and love of fair play, from being struck at a disadvantage.

Neither more nor less veracious than the correspondent who pretends to have seen a woman kicked down a street by an enraged mountebank is that specimen of the same class who tells his readers that James Watt, the inventor of the steam-engine, lies in the Green Park, adding with much naïveté what in itself is indisputably true, that there is no monument,



MANCHESTER FACTORY-GIRLS LEAVING WORK.

not even a stone, to mark the place. A Russian writer, who is far from undervaluing the English as a nation, M. Ogareff, has in a very pointed manner called attention to the fact that we have honoured Nelson with a conspicuous tomb in St. Paul's and excluded Thorwaldsen's statue of Byron from Westminster Abbey; that we never thought of the death of Prince Caraccioli (to say nothing of Lady Hamilton) in connection with the victor of Trafalgar; but that we could not on any account forget the matrimonial infidelities of the author of "Childe Harold." Here, at least, is matter for argument; but when we find a gentleman burying Watt in the Green Park and asserting that there is no record of his life and work in Westminster Abbey, we have nothing to argue about, and can only ask what manner of men those are who come among us having eyes and seeing not, and, what is still more extraordinary, not having eyes and yet seeing what no one else—simply in a physical sense—can possibly perceive.

The truth is, however, that those writers who see women kicked by men in the streets of London and who discover graves in the Green Park have often the art of communicating their impressions and inventions in a picturesque and amusing style, and it is, possibly, for those qualifications that they have been sent by the Parisian editors to describe a people of whose life and history they are profoundly ignorant. On the occasion of the Palais de l'Industrie of 1855 being opened, we remember one of these writers mentioning in an article about things in general that the directors of the principal journals had held a consultation as to whether learned "specialists" or ignorant but lively "generalists," in the shape of *feuilletonists*, should be employed to explain the marvels of the exhibition, and that the preference had been accorded to the latter. It was thought that the scientific men would bore the subscribers, whereas the habitual writers on affairs of the day, if they did not instruct them, or even if they misinformed them, were at least sure not to tire them to death. It is quite evident that the same principle has been observed in engaging correspondents to write letters in connection with the exhibition now open in South Kensington. Though for the most part they treat only of such social matters as any man with a certain amount of intelligence and without prejudice or conceit might make himself acquainted with in a few weeks, they show themselves even on these subjects anything but "specialists," and, provided they can make their articles sufficiently astonishing and sufficiently ludicrous to excite and amuse the ignorant *badants* of Paris, they care not whether what they relate be truthful, or even probable.

Between these journalistic articles and the papers on England which appear from time to time in the *Revue des Deux Mondes* there is all the difference which exists between folly and reason and between faleness and veracity.

THE COTTON FAMINE.

WITH every fresh report from America comes a verification of the terrible news which involves hundreds of our English working men and women in that terrible heart-sickness which comes from hope deferred and threatening to be ever unrealised.

The cotton bales—many of which have first been used as breast-works and fortifications at the various points where the Confederate forces have made a stand—are everywhere fired to prevent their falling into the hands of the enemy. So that gigantic trade, which had grown to be representative of our national prosperity, is suddenly paralysed; the great mills of Lancashire are silent or hum only at intervals of labour; and the army of operatives are left to wait on, suffering with an heroic patience which has seldom been surpassed in the world's history.

The dread "cotton famine" has threatened to become a bread famine also; even during the busy time of the day the sufferers may be seen sadly going through the streets; crowds of anxious fathers and sorrowing mothers throng the soup-kitchens or the places where bread is distributed; men who have dignified labour, and whom labour in return has dignified, become noble paupers, looking forward anxiously to the time when relief may come. Throughout all, the whole mass of workpeople seems influenced by the leaven of these right-thinking, patient, clear-headed men, and no anxiety has been produced by even the popular clamour which so often seeks relief for suffering in violent reproaches or muttered discontent. These men and women of Lancashire deserve well of their country, for they are a great example of what may be expected of the true English spirit. The distress which leaves them still looking wistfully (but uttering no cry) for help should be a national matter too. Much has been done already by the large subscriptions to the fund, but there has not yet been a truly universal recognition of the claim of these our countrymen and their wives and children to our deep individual sympathy. This is an age of sensations—sensational novels, sensation dramas, sensational amusements of all kinds, many of them pernicious, most of them unworthy; but, God knows, here is real, genuine sensation enough if we would but look at it—a host of men representing the bone and sinew of the country—a great company of women representing its maternity, its sympathy, its tenderness, its moral life-blood—a countless array of children representing its future, all ready to perish, and quietly waiting for help against what was an inevitable consequence of no fault or shortcoming of theirs. Here is a sight for seeing which, if every spectator paid but the price of a half hour's dawdling indifference to the last entertained, men, women, and children might be saved, hopes revived, and patience rewarded by the arrival of those Indian crops to which the eyes of all Europe seem to turn for a supply.

Every exertion is being made by the various local authorities, the charitable committees, and by the millowners themselves, to alleviate the distress; but it is already assuming proportions which will, it is to be feared, exceed the still limited means. While the Government and the country consult and deliberate—consult wisely and deliberately judiciously—the people starve. The future of the cotton supply allows a reasonable time for decision; the peril of the cotton-workers is imminent. At Blackburn there are 9500 people out of work, 1000 of whom are partially employed (from three to six days a week) by the poor-law guardians, at the rate of a shilling a day. The returns of the relieving-officers at the union show that last week 11,193 persons had been relieved, 4081 of whom were able-bodied. There are 18,000 people receiving temporary relief, either from the committee or the board of guardians, and the relief fund has been increased, £2200 remaining in the hands of the committee. At Preston 10,810 have received out-door relief, 1512 of the number being employed in excavating on the moor or breaking stones. Meanwhile the offices in Lancaster-road are crowded with young women and girls, almost totally destitute. For these it is proposed, in order to keep them from the dreadful alternatives which seem to be often inevitable on their wandering the streets houseless and wretched, to open a large room where they may be provided with knitting,

plain sewing, and other similar occupations in return for the relief afforded them.

The committee in their report say, "There is no change to report in the state of the town, save that continued increase of destitution which must needs accompany the continued absence of employment. The additions to the fund this week amount to about £130, the greater part of which is contributed by distant subscribers. With the praiseworthy exception of the continued contributions of operatives in full employ in the town, local donations have nearly ceased."

At Stockport the pauperism amounts to 6 per cent of the population, and it is greatly feared that even with the assistance of the local charities and the relief committee the funds will prove insufficient to provide for the increasing demands.

It is surely needless to multiply the terrible statistics of suffering which, unassociated with crime or even with noisy demonstration, should find in answer to its plea a sympathetic response throughout the length and breadth of the land.

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

The Mexican expedition is still the main subject of interest in Paris. Our old enemy, the Marquis de Boissy, made it the occasion in the Senate to attack England, and to charge her with perfidy in withdrawing from the Convention, and to point her out as still the bitter enemy of France. The force to be sent to Mexico will be upwards of 20,000 men, and General Forey is appointed the Commander-in-Chief of the whole army. The General is an old and experienced soldier. His corps, or rather his division, was the first engaged in Italy in 1859, and the victory of Montebello, due chiefly to his skilful disposition, was rewarded by the Grand Cross of the Legion of Honour and a seat in the Senate. The reinforcements about to be sent out consist of the 1st and 3rd Regiments of Zouaves (from Algeria), the 18th, 51st, 62nd, and 99th Regiments of the Line, the seventh battalion of Foot Chasseurs, three companies of Engineers, and four batteries of Artillery (twenty-four guns)—in all nineteen battalions of foot, numbering, including the Artillery and Engineers, about 22,000 men. The Paris papers affirm that at the date of the last despatches from Mexico General Lorencez was encamped in the province of Puebla, and would be able to maintain himself there during the hot season, which will close about the middle of September. In consequence of this information, the journals add that it is possible the dispatch of reinforcements may be delayed so that they should not reach Vera Cruz before October, in order that the new troops might escape the summer heats. Other accounts, however, state that the French had fallen back to Orizaba, to await instructions from home. There had been a battle between the Liberals and Reactionists—the French supporting the latter.

The French Chamber have passed all the clauses of the Budget, with the exception of that imposing a tax upon carriages. It was rejected, on a division, by 73 voting for the tax, and 173 against it. It is said that when the result was known the members betrayed some alarm at the independence they had shown, and it is thought they will be asked to reconsider their vote.

ITALY.

The King has received a deputation from the Chamber of Deputies bearing the address recently voted. His Majesty stated that he willingly accepted the address, and shared the sentiments of the Chamber. He also expressed a wish that the different political parties should become reconciled.

The Turin papers state that a plot had been formed by a band of marauders, chiefly composed of foreigners—who, it is said, have lately been infesting the neighbourhood of Turin—to lay hands on an "exalted personage" (the King), who, it is well known, in his sporting and other pursuits, frequently ventures out alone, in town and country, with greater rashness than is consistent either with his personal safety or with that of the country. The scheme was, however, known in time to the police, and defeated. The conspiracy is thought to have its head among the reactionists at Rome.

At the time of the Brescia arrests the Italian Government temporarily prohibited the further organisation of the National Rifle Association. The prohibition has now, it is stated, been removed. Not only that, but three of the Ministry, Rattazzi himself among them, have had their names enrolled in the numbers of the society. This mark of Ministerial confidence in the society of which Garibaldi is vice-president is probably intended to conciliate the General, and will no doubt have the effect of winning some popular favour, of which, beyond all question, the Rattazzi Cabinet stands in need.

A Florence paper has just published some documents, to the authenticity of which it pledges its reputation, and which, if authentic, convict the present Pope of having acted with singular duplicity in 1850 as regards the Italian people and their then rulers. According to these documents the Pope demanded that every vestige of constitutionalism should be withdrawn from their subjects by the Italian Sovereigns, and declared that no ruler was bound by any oath he had sworn to his people. The statement made by the Florentine paper is worthy of some attention, and, if not disproved, is likely to remain a heavy charge on the memory and fame of the present Pontiff.

It is asserted that a company has been formed, consisting of English and Italian capitalists, for the cultivation of cotton on a large scale in the southern Italian provinces.

ELECTORAL HESSE.

The Electoral Hesse difficulty may at last be regarded as settled. A new Ministry has been formed, and the Elector has sanctioned the restoration, not merely of the Constitution of 1831, but likewise of the electoral law of 1849. This is very satisfactory; but perhaps scarcely less pleasing to the inhabitants of Hesse Cassel will be the announcement that the Elector is about to leave his dominions upon a journey.

RUSSIA AND POLAND.

Incendiarism still prevails, not only at St. Petersburg, but in other cities of Russia. Advice from Odessa state that on the nights between the 5th and 8th inst. various large conflagrations took place. Storehouses of grain and other produce were destroyed, and great consternation prevailed. These fires are attributed to political motives, and supposed to be caused by the secret societies that do not think the Imperial Government is advancing rapidly enough in the path of reform. The governors of provinces are authorised to declare martial law against incendiaries, and to sentence them without appeal to the Emperor. A special decree empowers them to punish with sentence of death any person or persons found guilty of murder, pillage, or attempt to destroy the crops. The Government has closed all the military Sunday-schools, on account of their having "inculcated seditious principles."

Attempts having been made to induce the troops to break their oath of allegiance, the admission of strangers to the barracks is prohibited.

Advices have been received at Berlin from St. Petersburg which say—"A financial crisis has commenced in the Russian capital in consequence of the late conflagrations. Several manufacturers have declared themselves insolvent, and the greater part of the insurance companies are in the same state. Desolation reigns in the city. The Emperor shows great courage and energy. The report that fires have broken out at Moscow is confirmed."

The office of the Military Governor of Warsaw has been closed. Passports for foreign countries will be issued by the Government Commissioner for the Affairs of the Interior. The forms will in future be drawn up in Polish instead of in Russian. A decree granting civil rights to the Jews has been published.

GREECE.

According to the Athenian journals the new Greek Ministry have issued a proclamation stating their determination to govern the country in conformity with the Constitution, and announcing that, by the King's command, they will bring before the Chambers, convened in an extraordinary Session, a bill for organising the National

Guard, and one for securing in the most effectual manner the free exercise of electoral rights.

WALLACHIA.

Belgrade still continues in a disturbed condition. Martial law has been proclaimed there, and several persons have been shot. A telegram states that some of the country people who were brought in to defend the city against the Turks have only occupied themselves as plunderers and robbers. The Ottoman Government has recalled the Governor of the citadel of Belgrade, has ordered that hostilities should be stopped, and has directed that a searching inquiry should be made into the facts out of which the conflict arose. The special commissioners appointed by the Turkish Government to inquire into the late disturbances at Belgrade have reached that city. The Prince of Serbia, it is said, has demanded the evacuation of all the fortresses—a demand not likely to be complied with unless backed by some of the great Powers.

M. Catargi, the President of the Council of Ministers for Wallachia, was assassinated on Friday week as he was leaving the Chamber of Deputies at Bucharest. The cause was not known, nor the assassin discovered.

THE CIVIL WAR IN AMERICA.

On the 6th a severe fight took place between the hostile naval forces before Memphis, which ended in the defeat of the Confederates, and the subsequent surrender of Memphis to the Federal commander. As a counterpoise to these continued losses on the Mississippi the Confederates are again making head in Tennessee and Kentucky. General Smith was said to be marching on Nashville with a large force, which gathered strength as it advanced; and the Kentuckians were making preparations to afford aid to the force, which was expected to reach the northern limits of their State. Before Richmond General McClellan was nearly at a standstill, and his movements appeared paralysed; while the Confederates have, as far as we can judge from the Northern accounts, gained another victory over the enemy in the Shenandoah Valley. The Federals, it would seem, emboldened by the arrival of General Fremont and his force at Harrisonburg, heedlessly pursued the retreating force of General Jackson, and fell into an ambush and suffered severely. The Federals being reinforced again pursued, when General Jackson made a grand dash against General Shields' advance, which was hurrying to General Fremont's assistance, and compelled him, with great loss, to fall back on the main body. Fremont estimates his own loss at 125 killed and 500 wounded, including many valuable officers. General Jackson then quietly resumed his retreat, burning the bridges in his rear; and has made good his retreat from the Valley of the Shenandoah, though closely pursued by Generals Banks, Shields, and Fremont, and has escaped over the Blue Ridge Mountains en route to Richmond; and all the accounts agree in stating that the Confederates are determined to make a stand at Richmond. The Federals had occupied James Island, near Charleston, under the protection of the gun-boats. At Charleston the Confederates are reported to have been reinforced with 20,000 men from Beauregard's army; and the Federal Commodore was awaiting reinforcements before venturing to attack it.

General Halleck reports officially that General Beauregard, with the main body of the Confederate army of the South-West, has retreated upon Okolano, as originally reported. He has lost from 20,000 to 30,000 men by death, capture, desertion, and other casualties. He still commands a force of from 80,000 to 90,000 men. It is reported that he has dispatched a portion of his force to the aid of General Kirby Smith at Knoxville, in Tennessee, and that Nashville is in danger.

Telegraph news from Augusta, dated June 7, reports Governor Andrew Johnson, of Tennessee, killed in Nashville by a man named Gen. Brown, who in turn had been killed. The same despatch says that General Butler has been killed in New Orleans, but adds that the report wants confirmation. Vicksburg papers state that De Sota, Mississippi, has been destroyed by the Federal fleet, and adds, "but three little buildings now mark the spot which once gloried in the title of a city." The same report adds that the Federal gun-boats shelled the town of Grand Gulf, and their transports landed a number of troops, who pillaged and sacked the town of everything they could lay their hands upon.

It is reported that 30,000 bales of cotton have been burnt in the neighbourhood of Memphis. An application has been made to ship 6000 bales from Memphis.

The Secretary of the Navy has sent a letter to Congress suggesting the establishment of a navy-yard in the valley of the Mississippi for constructing iron-plated ships.

IRELAND.

THE SPECIAL COMMISSION.—The Irish special commission, which closed its labours at Limerick on Wednesday week, was opened at Clonmel on the following Friday, when the grand jury found true bills against Thomas Bohan, for firing at Colonel Knox; and against Thomas Halloran, for the murder of M. Thiebault. Bohan was then put upon his trial, when his counsel urged several technical objections, which were overruled by the Judges. One of them was that a material witness was absent in England, but the trial had hardly begun when the witness walked into court. The trial resulted in a verdict of "Not guilty," an alibi having been proved. The court then proceeded to the trial of Halloran, which also resulted in a verdict of "Not guilty." Walsh, the second man concerned in the murder of Mr. Fitzgerald, has given himself up to the police.

PROGRESS OF TELEGRAPHY.—A plan for the better detection and prevention of crime in Ireland has been laid, within the last few days, before the Irish Executive. It is proposed to connect the police barracks of Ireland by telegraphic wires, thereby enabling the constabulary to encircle any district where a crime is committed the moment information reaches them. Agrarian and other offences are generally perpetrated by strangers hired from a distance, who at present have time to escape back to their own districts before they can be intercepted by the police, hence the necessity of a rapid communication between the police barracks. For this purpose mounted constabulary are kept at present at a cost of about £40,000 per annum, whose services, it is assumed, might be dispensed with by the substitution of telegraphic wire, which can be laid at a very small expense compared with that incurred for the horse police.

SCOTLAND.

THE MOORS AND FORESTS.—Much anxiety was felt during the last fortnight in regard to the state of grouse and other game, owing to the almost continuous rains and the prevalence of hail showers and cold winds. Since Saturday week, however, gamekeepers and watchers have been out on the greater part of the moors of Perthshire, and all reports agree in stating that the grouse have not suffered nearly to the extent which was generally anticipated. On the extensive shooting-grounds of Breadalbane the early-hatched broods of grouse have suffered but little injury; but the nests newly hatched appear to be weakly. On the range extending from Clifft to Argyre-hire, where last season upwards of five thousand brace of grouse were killed, the accounts are also encouraging. On the north hills of Strathallan and the moors stretching to the south-west end of the county the reports are as favourable as could be expected after the incessant rains. The young broods of pheasants, which are the most tender of all the game species, appear to have suffered most from the cold rains, for in a good many cases numbers of the birds have been found dead. Partridges are plentiful in all the districts of the shire, and, as the broods were hatched earlier than usual, the birds are now able to withstand unsettled weather. In the forests of Atholl, Breadalbane, and Glenartney, fawing has commenced; and this season, as well as last year, an unusual number of the deer have had twins; but a continuance of unsettled weather would soon prove injurious to the young fawns.

THE PROVINCES.

TERRIBLE EXPLOSION AT BIRMINGHAM.—Birmingham was the scene of a frightful explosion on Saturday last, by which nine persons at least have lost their lives and a large number been severely injured that some of them cannot recover. The explosion took place in a percussion-cap manufactory belonging to Messrs. Walker, and situated in Graham-street. Nothing is known as to the cause of the explosion. It occurred at a time when the workpeople were all on the premises waiting for the payment of their wages, and thus the number of sufferers was largely increased. Two of the Messrs. Walker were killed. The building was completely destroyed, and the adjoining property very much injured. The scene after nightfall, when efforts were being made to extricate those buried beneath the ruins, is described as most impressive.

THE MIDDLE-LEVEL INCUNDATION.—The troubles of the Middle-Level Commissioners may now be considered almost at an end, as the dam has been

THE INTERNATIONAL DOG SHOW. — The dog show opened at the Agricultural Hall, Islington, on Monday, drew together a very large and fashionable concourse of visitors, among whom we observed the Earl of Westmoreland, the Duke of Beaufort, the Duke of Sutherland, Lord Sefton, the Duke of St. Albans, Lord Portsmouth, Lord Chesterfield, and many other distinguished members of the nobility. We understand the awards of the judges are considered, on the whole, very satisfactory; but, as is usual in such cases, some exhibitors seem to think that their particular favourites have been overlooked. The Duke of Beaufort's pack of foxhounds attracts general admiration. A silver cup, value £10 10s., has been awarded to his Grace's huntsman for the excellent condition of the pack. Two remarkably fine deerhounds are shown, the property of the Right Hon. the Earl of Winchelsea. These dogs are peculiar to Eastwell Park, and are used for pulling down the deer; they were highly commended by the judges. The show of dogs of all descriptions is considered to be very superior.

THE ARAB COURIER.

In this age of locomotion, when it has become proverbial that it is cheaper to ride than to waste shoelather in walking, we have lost all experience of those feats of pedestrianism which so often moved the attention of our fathers. Now and then there appears a paragraph in the newspapers relating how some old lady has walked from Land's End to London to see something or somebody, or how, in some distant country, a brave and muscular Englishman has "accomplished the whole distance on foot," in default of obtaining a horse or any other means of conveyance; but these reports are few and far between.

Of course there are still professional pedestrians who are rivals of Captain Barclay, and, as those gentlemen are always ready to engage in a spirited contest, and, moreover, as importations of strength and activity, in the shape of American Indians and others, are eagerly sought for, it may be suggested that a visit of Ben Saidan to this country would stimulate the sporting world and lend an additional impetus to pedestrianism. Ben Saidan is no other than that famous Arab guide who did so much service as spy and courier to the French troops in Algeria some years ago. Not only is his power of walking long distances almost beyond belief, but he has also attained a reputation for tact and intelligence which is perhaps more to his advantage. When the troops were on the march he generally preceded them, walking, as is his custom, with the short bludgeon he carries placed at the back of his neck, in the way represented in our Engraving. If the cavalry by a sudden gallop passed him on the road he would come up with them when they stopped or slackened their pace, and resume his place at the head of the column.

The indefatigable guide became a complete terror to the people of Ouled Aissa at the time of their insurrection. Neither march, countermarch, nor ambuscade escaped the subtle observation of Ben Saidan, and it may be said that he contributed not a little to their eventual submission. Unlike most of his countrymen, he cares nothing for a horse, having frequently refused to ride when one was offered him. "I mount a horse!" he exclaimed on one occasion. "Am I not my own horse? All tired as I am, I will be bound to travel sixty leagues more quickly than any one riding the best horse in the country." And, indeed, this was scarcely boasting, for in forty-eight hours he completed the whole distance between Messad and Tuggart. It was near this latter city, at an oasis where he had stopped, that he was taken prisoner and confined in the most secure place within the walls; but he managed to escape, it is said, by means of a young girl who inclosed a key in a cake of Arab bread. In the domestic character Ben Saidan seems to have been singularly unhappy, although he has been married several times, and any sickness or misfortune which befalls him he attributes to poison or an evil influence connected with his once having cut off the nose of one of his wives who had been unfaithful to him.

THE KIRGEESIAN SUBJECTS OF RUSSIA.

The powerful and numerous tribes of the Kirgees, Kirghises, or Kirguises, as the name is variously written, occupy the northern



ARAB COURIER IN ALGERIA.

part of independent Tartary. The country which these people inhabit, or, more properly speaking, which they traverse in their continuous nomadic wanderings, is a vast steppe or desert, extending from the Volga to the Irtish, and from the Ural Mountain chain and the River Tobol to the Ala-Tau and Sirdirya. This wide expanse of territory consists partly of barren, sandy plains, like the great deserts of Syria and North Africa, and partly of verdant prairies, overgrown with high grass and brushwood. There are no forests, few large rivers or lakes, and mountains rise only on the boundaries of the country. Here and there the ruins of towns and villages tell of early civilisation and record the past existence of a race of inhabitants essentially different from the wild hordes by

whom the country is now peopled. In physiognomy, and, indeed, in general physical conformation, the Kirgees resemble the Mongols, but they speak a language which bears a close affinity to the Turkish. Whilst their eastern and southern neighbours profess Buddhism, the Kirgees themselves follow the faith of Islam. The population of the Kirgeesian territory, amounting to several millions, is divided into three classes or tribes, known as the Great, the Middle, and the Little Horde. (Our Illustration presents individual types of these several classes or hordes). Formerly all were tributary to the Chinese or to the Khan of Khokand, but about a century ago the Middle and Little Hordes placed themselves under the protectorate of Russia; and in the year 1819 the Great Horde formally withdrew its allegiance from the Chinese and acknowledged the dominion of the Czar. The Kirgees, however, must be regarded only in a very limited sense as Russian subjects; they are in reality quite independent. Their chiefs merely observe the semblance of obedience, whilst, by their predatory habits, they harass the Russians on the frontier, along which it has been found necessary to construct a line of forts to hold the Kirgees in check. Their nomadic mode of life, together with the vast extent of their territory, and the impenetrable mountain recesses which screen them from pursuit, all render their complete subjugation hopeless, unless a very powerful military force could be brought to act against them.

Among the Kirgees, as among the Bedouins, religion is an affair of very subordinate importance. The prescribed prayers of Islam are repeated daily in a large hall, or under a tent, and frequently the khan or chief officiates as priest. When engaged in worship the people take off their pointed caps and put on turbans: the turban being regarded as the crown of Islam.

In this part of Tartary Russia seems less intent on gaining ascendancy than in the Caucasus and in the direction of China. The reason is that the country of the Kirgees offers no great temptations; for the produce of the steppe is comparatively of little value whilst it remains so inaccessible as it now is. Modern ingenuity has, however, discovered the means of surmounting obstacles which oppose the intercourse of nations; and probably ere the lapse of two centuries railways extending from the Wolga, across the Steppes of Central Asia, will carry to those secluded regions the civilisation of the West. That the Steppe is capable of receiving civilisation is evident from the remains of the towns and villages already alluded to. The

great problem which at present engages the attention of Russian statesmen is the conquest of North-eastern Asia for the advancement of human civilisation. For the attainment of this object the emancipation of the serfs must be a great step in advance.

THE CHURCH IN THE SALT MINES OF WIELICZKA.

To reach the mines of Wieliczka it is necessary to proceed from Cracow (near to which the place is situated) by means of a "rooz," or little cart drawn by four horses, who will whirl you over the ground at a most terrible rate, not without some danger to life or limb. The road itself, however, is a fine one and the surrounding

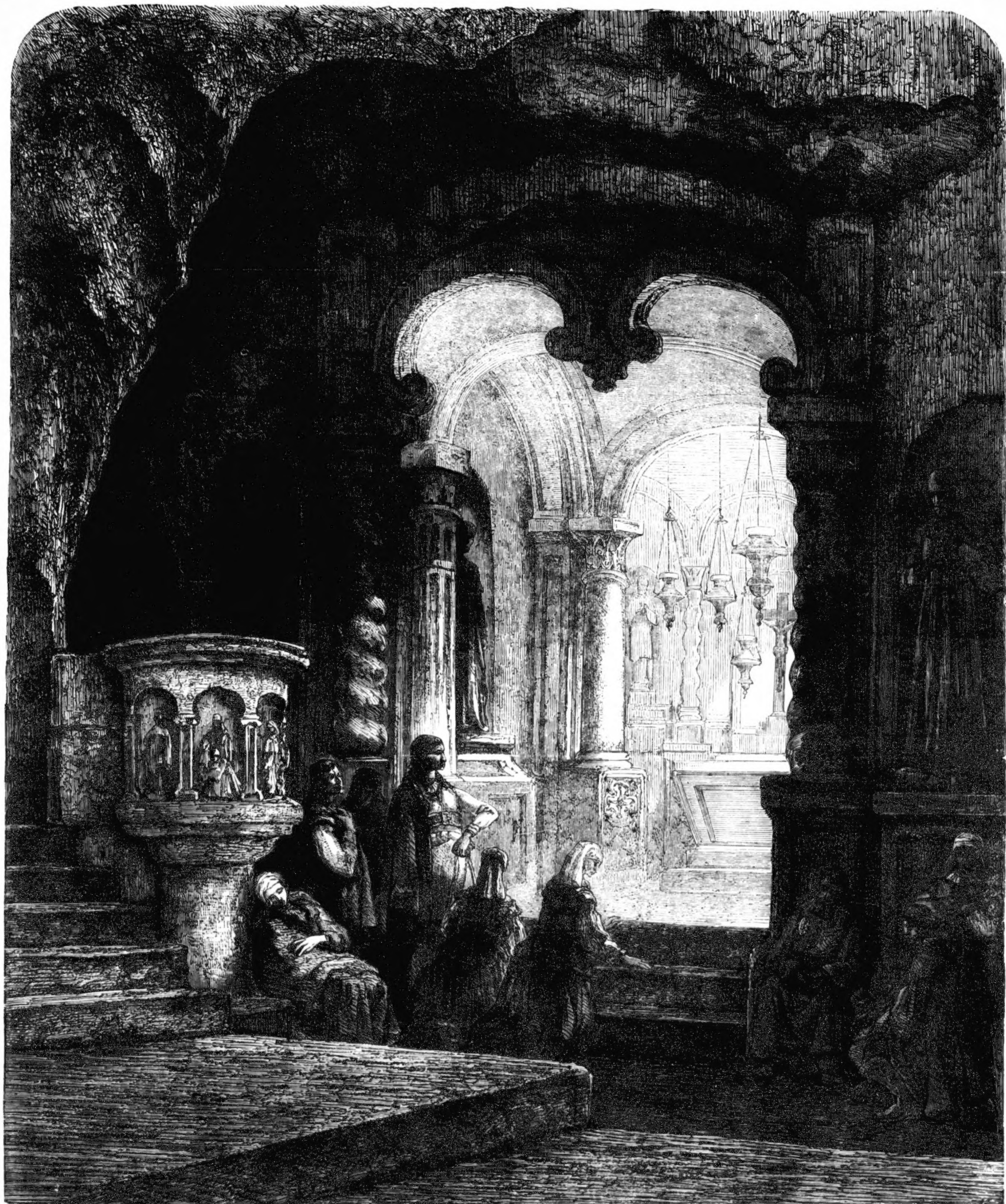


RUSSIAN TARTARS.

country magnificent, composed, as it is, of immense valleys, through which the Vistula winds in serpentine curves, while in the background rise the splendid mountains of Tabra, crowned by the snow-clad ridges of the Carpathians, where immense boulders of rock are draped with grey moss. Wieliczka is of but little importance except for its salt mines, which are the richest and most ancient in Europe, one legend attributing their discovery to St. Cunégonde, wife of Boleslas, King of Poland. It appears that, towards the thirteenth century, the monks of the Convent of Tyniec had attained a large trade in connection with these mines, but it was not until the reign of Casimir the Great that they were regularly worked. The principal seams of salt run from east to west; and, although the mines already reach to an extraordinary depth, their extent is at present unknown. It takes about three

hours to reach the bottom, and during an entire day only a small portion of this enormous subterranean town can be visited. It is said, indeed, that to inspect the whole of the galleries now opened would require nearly a month's leisure. More than one thousand workmen, with their families, live by their labour in these mines. They are all Poles, and appear to be perfectly contented with their occupation, which seems far from unhealthy, although the inhabitants of these cavernous regions live there, with 400 horses, as though they had for ever renounced the occupations of the upper world. To overcome the abuses of several noblemen, the ancient laws forbid, under pain of death, that any stranger should enter these mines, although in the present day, there is no difficulty in obtaining admission accompanied by the guides. Before descending the voyageur puts on a large white cloak and signs his

name in a book. The descent commences with a flight of stone steps, unless it be preferred to reach the first galleries by means of a rope. The long western gallery leads to a very fine chamber, known as the Hall of Ursula, which is of immense height, and contains hundreds of sparkling crystals depending from its roof. To gain the Michalowich Hall it is necessary to descend stairs cut in the salt itself, and, on arriving at the bottom, at a signal from the guide, fires composed of faggots are lighted by the miners, who thus illuminate as if by magic this wonderful scene, the fearful grandeur of which it would be difficult to convey by any mere description. A bridge, crossing an abyss 270ft. deep, conducts to the Rosetta Hall. In this part of the mine there is an extensive lake, some 500ft. long, which is crossed by a boat that in its passage appears to glide over a thick and inky stream. The gas which sometimes collects in this part of



GREEK CHURCH IN THE SALT MINES OF WIELICZKA.

the mine formerly caused terrible accidents, but these are now obviated by scientific improvements.

Having visited the hall of Pieskowa-skala, the traveller reaches by a spiral staircase the church of St. Antoine, which was constructed about 1690. The miners, who are fervent Catholics, assemble here every day to hear mass; here may be seen new and really sublime wonders, for all the details of this marvellous underground building are carved in salt. The architecture is massy, and the columns, with their ornamented capitals, are peculiar in their style and architectural character, while several statues of the kings of Poland and of recumbent knights decorate the aisles.

A discovery is said to have just been made at Marseilles of the ruins of a Greek circus.

INNER LIFE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.—NO. 191.

FOREIGN INVASION.

EVERY night the lobby of the House of Commons is besieged by foreigners. Representatives of all the nations of the babbling earth nightly make their appearance. French, Dutch, Belgians, Prussians, Austrians, Bavarians, Russians, Poles, Hungarians, Spaniards, Italians, Greeks, Turks, Parsees, Hindoos, Haytiens, we ourselves have seen amongst the crowd. One Hindoo gentleman is a constant attendant in the foreign gallery, and his gorgeous turban glittering in the gaslight forms quite a conspicuous object. Parsees, in their curious pasteboard hats, come down occasionally in groups, whilst the representatives of the European nations are almost as numerous as Englishmen. No doubt amongst these there are many people of great celebrity if we did but know them. But the House of

Commons authorities are very impartial; no fuss is made with any one here—Princes, Barons, Counts, eminent statesmen, men of great wealth and position in their own country, have no more homage paid to them than the merchant or the artisan. They mingle with the crowd; they sidle up to the doorkeeper and present their cards; and if there is room they are admitted, and if there is no room they quietly retire and are again lost in the press. Occasionally, however, we discover a notable man.

For example, some nights ago a tall, greyheaded old gentleman, somewhat bent with age, but of exceedingly amiable countenance, was pointed out to us as the celebrated Genevan Dr. Daubigné, the historian of the Reformation. His work, it will be remembered, though the fame of it is somewhat dimmed now, created a vast

sensation in Germany, France, America, and England when it first appeared. Him Mr. Arthur Kinnaird introduced to the House.

Last week M. Garnier Pagès entered the lobby in company with Mr. Cobden. M. Garnier Pagès, our readers will recollect, was very conspicuous in the French Revolutions of 1830 and 1848. He organised the barricades in the St. Avoys Quartier in the former year. He became a member of the Chamber of Deputies. He afterwards, in 1848, was one of the Provisional Government with Lamartine. M. Garnier Pagès is tall, thin, and somewhat stooping, as we might expect when we reflect what a burden he has borne; but he seemed to be as active and vivacious as ever. As the hero of two revolutions, this gentleman was worth looking at.

Here, then, are two celebrities. On Thursday night (last week) we had a fourth of a very different character to both these—to wit, Baron Stieglitz, the great Petersburg banker, who is said to be the richest man in the world—richer, rumour will have it, than any individual Rothschild—though, of course, not so wealthy as the Rothschild firm combined. A gentleman who knows him well told a friend of ours that the annual income of this man is over half a million. A very unassuming man apparently is the Baron, and this, we are told, is his character—a quiet, unostentatious, unassuming man. He walked about the lobby with Mr. Millar, of Leith, a merchant who has a large establishment in Russia, and has lived in St. Petersburg many years. Baron Stieglitz is very much respected in St. Petersburg, as he deserves to be if rumour is correct as to his character, for he is said to be not only unassuming but very kind, generous, and charitable. With the Emperor of All the Russias he is a great favourite.

On Monday another celebrity marched into the lobby—the Prince Napoleon, with Count Flahault and suite. They were received in form by Lord Charles Russell and conducted into the foreign gallery.

PATERFAMILIAS.

We look upon Lord Palmerston as something more than “the noble Lord at the head of the Government.” He is, so to speak, an ancient father with all his boys around him. Sometimes the good old father goes off to sleep, leaving his boys to do the work; and not unfrequently these boys get into trouble—get fighting and quarrelling with other boys, as high-spirited lads are wont to do—whereupon the good father has to wake up, interpose, and set matters right. Sometimes his boys are clearly wrong, and then he quietly lets them know that he thinks so by giving up the cause of quarrel. At other times he sees at once that they are right, and then it is really a sight to see him rise and lay about him amongst their opponents. In that Watson Taylor case our good Paterfamilias clearly saw that his boys had gone too far—had used irritating words and overstated their case—and when he arose he did all but acknowledge this; and whilst he adhered to their side in the main, he spoke conciliatory words to their opponents, and sent them away pleased and happy. But, on Friday night last week, when his Foreign Under Secretary—a rather high-spirited imprudent youth, who very often lets his tongue get him into trouble—got into a row with an Irish lad named Maguire, who is also very voluble of speech, and can say nasty things at times, our Paterfamilias flew at the Irish boy with great determination, and made him release the Under Secretary and cry “Peccavi!”

A QUARREL.

It was a very pretty quarrel that between Mr. Maguire and Mr. Layard, and a lively and acceptable episode in this dull Session. The case was this: Mr. Maguire, in his speech upon the suppression in Turkey of the *British Star*, a newspaper written in Greek, and belonging to a Greek merchant in London, had insinuated that it was at the instigation of Mr. Layard that this paper was suppressed, and that he got it suppressed because it faithfully exposed the hollowness of Turkish finance, the interests of which Mr. Layard, as a shareholder in the Ottoman Bank, has a direct interest in maintaining. In short, Mr. Maguire more than hinted that Mr. Layard had used his influence as a Government official to “rig” the market to enable him to put money in his purse. Now, this was a very grave charge—a very heavy charge, indeed—and one which no Government official could without loss of character allow to pass unnoticed; and it was not surprising that Mr. Layard was irritated by the accusation or that he should give expression to his anger in strong terms. But our Under Secretary went a step too far, and used unparliamentary language. His words were these—“I will not condescend to deny such a charge from such a man;” and these last four words were clearly unparliamentary, and directly contrary to a well-known ancient order of the House, date June 23, 1626, which provides that “nothing offensive is to be spoken.” Upon hearing these words Mr. Scully jumped up “to order,” and demanded “that these words be taken down;” and we suppose this would have been done, but at the critical moment Mr. Disraeli rose, and after him Lord Palmerston. The Conservative chief did not do much to allay the heat, but rather increased it by his tauntings of the Under Secretary, but the noble Lord went to the root of the matter, and, like a good father, threw his broad shield over the Under Secretary. “It was not,” said the noble Lord in substance, “my honourable friend that first offended, but you, Mr. Maguire, hurling a heavy and grievous charge against my honourable friend, which you ought at once to retract.” Whereupon Mr. Maguire, after this shaking, at once cried peccavi and recalled the accusation; and, Mr. Layard having retracted the offensive words, Paterfamilias sank down again into a comfortable sleep, and the debate went on.

TAKING DOWN WORDS.

What does this phrase mean? What happens when words are taken down? There seems to be some awful mystery about this motion to take down words? Were words ever really taken down, and, if they were, what was the result? Questions like these we have often heard, but we have found few that could give a satisfactory answer. The answer is, however, very simple. If a member use words supposed to be offensive, it is competent to any member to move that “the words be taken down;” and, if this be carried, these words form a sort of indictment against the honourable member, and he is at once ordered to withdraw whilst the House takes them into consideration, to determine whether they are offensive, unparliamentary, and contrary to order or not. If the House decide that they are disorderly, the member is called in and ordered to retract them. If the decision be that they are not disorderly, the member is told so and the proceedings go on. If after decision of the House that the words were offensive, the member who had used them were to refuse to retract, he would be taken into custody; but nothing of this sort has occurred in our time. There are, however, cases in the books to the point. In 1810 a Mr. Fuller was ordered, “for his offensive words and disorderly conduct, to be taken into the custody of the Sergeant-at-Arms.”

Imperial Parliament.

FRIDAY, JUNE 29.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

This being the anniversary of her Majesty's accession to the throne, the House of Lords did not sit.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

MEDIATION IN AMERICA.

On the order of the day for going into Committee of Supply, Mr. Lindsay, who had a notice on the paper that he would call attention to our relations with America, said he would postpone his motion until the 11th of July.

THE CASE OF THE “BRITISH STAR.”

Mr. MAGUIRE drew attention to the official announcement made by Earl Russell to M. Zeno, the proprietor of a journal called the *British Star*, and complained that instructions had been given to the English postmaster at Constantinople to return all copies of that journal which might come into his hands. The hon. gentleman dwelt upon what he considered the grievances inflicted upon M. Zeno, and stated that the causes to which the gentleman imputed those grievances were that he had inserted in his paper articles upon the financial condition of Turkey and the connection of Mr. Layard with the Ottoman Bank. The recent loan to Turkey had been pulled on the Treasury bench, and, were it not for the high personal honour of the members of her Majesty's Government, it might have been said that they had “rigged” the market for the Sultan.

Mr. LAYARD repudiated with some warmth the insinuations of the hon. member for Dungarvan, and said that he was sure the House would not expect him to condescend to answer in detail “such charges coming from such a man.”

Mr. V. SCULLY here moved that the words of Mr. Layard be taken down by the clerk at the table, on the ground that they were unparliamentary.

Mr. LAYARD declined to retract the offensive expression.

Mr. DISRAELI and Lord PALMERSTON commented upon what had passed, and recommended that Mr. Layard (who they admitted had received considerable provocation) should withdraw the particular observation to which exception had been taken.

Mr. LAYARD, having expressed his regret that, in the heat of debate, he had used words which had given umbrage to the House, proceeded to say that the Turkish Government had with great liberality allowed a post-office to be opened at Constantinople, under English management, but that complaint had been made that the journal of M. Zeno circulated articles calculated to be subversive of order and to lead to revolution. Under these circumstances her Majesty's Government had directed that it should no longer be transmitted through the English post. With regard to the charge of having puffed the financial state of Turkey, he had said nothing on that subject which he was not prepared to adhere to.

Mr. BRIGHT thought that the Foreign Office had acted with great harshness towards M. Zeno, whose only object in establishing his journal was to enlighten his Greek countrymen in the East as to English thought, practice, literature, and government.

After some further discussion the motion was withdrawn.

MONDAY, JUNE 23.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

THE QUEEN'S BENCH PRISON BILL.

The LORD CHANCELLOR, on moving the first reading of the Removal of the Queen's Bench Prison Bill, explained that the object of the measure was to close the Queen's Bench Prison. The site on which that prison stood was worth between £200,000 and £300,000, and would be no mean acquisition; in addition to which between £3000 and £4000 a year, the sum now expended for maintaining the prison, would be saved to the nation. Owing to the provisions of the recently-passed Bankruptcy Act, imprisonments for debt were now so few that Whitecross-street Prison would more than suffice for the reception of fraudulent debtors. If the bill passed, the site might possibly be dedicated to the purposes of St. Thomas's Hospital.

The bill was read a first time.

The Jurisdiction in Homicides Bill was read a second time, Lord De Grey having briefly explained its object.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE NATIONAL DEFENCES.

Sir G. C. LEWIS, in a Committee of the whole House on fortification and works, moved the following resolution:—“That, towards providing a further sum for defraying the expenses of the construction of works for the defence of the Royal dockyards and arsenal and of the ports of Dover and Portland, and for the creation of a central arsenal, a sum not exceeding £1,200,000 be charged upon the Consolidated Fund of the United Kingdom, and that the commissioners of her Majesty's Treasury be authorised and empowered to raise the said sum by annuities for a term not exceeding thirty years; and that such annuities shall be charged upon and be payable out of the said Consolidated Fund.” The right hon. Baronet observed that measures of national defence necessarily partook of the character of an insurance, and such measures might be quite proper, although subsequent information might prove that the precaution in which they had their origin was unnecessary. The right hon. gentleman, after expressing his belief that our armaments had not attained any extravagant dimensions, and after having stated a variety of details in reference to the number of men, of guns, and of other elements of our military power, passed to a consideration of the special question of fortifications. The total cost of all the works of this description which had already been constructed, or for which the Government had actually entered into contracts, was £3,385,000; and the estimated charge for completing our present plan of fortifications was £6,700,000. Immediately after the naval action in America in which the Merrimack had been engaged the House had expressed a wish that the works at Spithead should be suspended; and the Government had yielded to that wish, and had determined on not renewing the consideration of that subject until the spring of next year. But they did not therefore think it desirable that the progress of all our proposed new fortifications should be arrested; and, as those undertakings had already received the sanction of Parliament, he trusted that the House would not by their vote upon the present occasion give the enemies of constitutional government any excuse for saying that the conduct of the principal legislative assembly in the world had been marked by inconsistency and vacillation.

Mr. OSBORNE moved, as an amendment to the resolution, the omission of all the words after “that,” in order to add the following words:—“Considering the changes and improvements now in progress affecting the science of attack and defence, it is not at present expedient to proceed with the construction of the proposed forts on the shoals at Spithead, or the additional defences at Portsmouth, Plymouth, and Dover, recommended by the Commissioners appointed to consider the defences of the United Kingdom; and that in any general system of national defence, it is the House is of opinion that the Navy should be regarded as the arm on which the country must mainly depend.” The hon. gentleman said he entirely agreed with the right hon. Baronet that works of national defence were matters of national importance; but he believed that the “Royal Marine Insurance Office” afforded the best element of security to this country; and if the House should be of that opinion they would, no doubt, be prepared to adopt his amendment. He entirely dissented from the statement of the right hon. gentleman that “increased efficiency” translated into good Treasury English meant nothing more than “increased expenditure.” But his special duty upon that occasion was to oppose the construction of the proposed fortifications at various points of our coast. The hon. gentleman then proceeded at considerable length to argue against those works, founding his objections to them on their indefinite but necessarily enormous cost, on the very questionable character of their advantage to this country, and on the impossibility of our manning them even if they were completed. The number of men required to garrison them would amount altogether to 95,000; and we could never expect to have an army available for such a service. The command of the Channel was our real security; we were not to assume that it would be lost; and if we should cease to retain it, no forts could materially help to place us beyond the reach of foreign invasion.

The debate was continued by Sir F. Smith, Mr. H. A. Bruce, Sir Stafford Northcote, Mr. Bentinck, Sir Morton Peto, and other members.

LORD PALMERSTON said the House of Commons had deliberately sanctioned the proposition of the Government two years ago that the sum required for fortifications should be raised by terminable annuities, and he hoped the House would not revoke that consent. The Government were prepared to abide by the recommendation which they had then made, and they considered they were justified in doing so, because fortifications like those which it was intended to raise were permanent improvements upon the freehold, similar to those which a private individual might make upon his estate, and a portion of which ought in justice to be borne by those who come after him. The real question for consideration was, whether they should or should not proceed with those defences, which competent persons had declared to be necessary for the protection of our dockyards and arsenals. He denied that, in providing the means of national defence, the country intended to give offence to a neighbouring Power. With respect to France, he had always been of opinion that the true policy to be observed was to put ourselves on terms of equality with that great nation. So long as England and France were on terms of perfect equality, nothing could disturb their friendship; and he was happy to say that the two Governments were at this moment on the most cordial, intimate, and friendly terms. He hoped the House, for its own character, would not stultify itself by repudiating the policy which it had sanctioned two years ago by so large a majority.

Mr. DISRAELI complained of the inconsistency and vacillation of the Government upon this great scheme. What had been its origin? A paper had been laid before the House in which the cost was estimated at £11,500,000. Lord Palmerston had stated it at £9,000,000; the then Secretary for War reduced it to £5,000,000; and the present Secretary stated it at £6,500,000. Yet Lord Palmerston had talked of the inconsistency and vacillation of the House. He considered that the Government were entering upon a new and dangerous career in raising funds for a large expenditure, not by taxation, but by loan. Under the circumstances, however, the great point was to get the bill to be founded upon the resolution into Committee, when the whole scheme could be discussed in detail, and he thought it would be, therefore, better that the amendment should not be pressed.

After a reply by Mr. OSBORNE, who said he should not press his amendment, the original resolution was agreed to.

TUESDAY, JUNE 24.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

NEW ZEALAND.

The Duke of NEWCASTLE, in moving the second reading of the New Zealand Bill, stated that its object was to remedy the defects in a previous Act, which it had been found did not fully invest the provincial Assembly with the intended powers.

Earl GREY thought that it was desirable to subject to some revision that portion of the New Zealand constitution which gave the colonists self-government and yet imposed upon the mother country the responsibility of settling their internal disturbances.

After some discussion the bill was read a second time.

NIGHT-POACHING.

LORD BERNERS asked whether the Government were prepared to introduce this Session a measure to suppress the evils of night-poaching?

Earl GRANVILLE replied in the negative, and added that he did not think it desirable that the police should be employed as assistants in the preservation of game.

The Earl of DERBY said he regretted to hear that the Government had arrived at that decision. The question did not merely involve the preservation of game, but was clearly connected with the increase of crime in the rural districts.

Lords Malmesbury and Delamere concurred in the views expressed by Lord Derby, and Lord Granville having intimated that he would not oppose any bill introduced for the suppression of night-poaching, Lord Berners brought in a bill accordingly.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

CHURCH RATES.

Mr. SOTHERON-ESTCOURT submitted the following resolution:—“That the law relating to church rates may be beneficially settled by combining in one measure provisions for each of the following objects:—(1) To enable vestries specially summoned, and in which owners shall have a vote by proxy, to transfer from occupiers to owners so much of their liability as regards the repair of their parish church and churchyard; and to make such special rate, if voted by a majority, recoverable by the same process as a rate of repairs of highways; (2) to repeal the existing legal process for enforcing a compulsory church rate; and (3) to give facilities for collecting a voluntary rate.” The right hon. gentl. man observed that he was sincerely anxious to settle this much-vexed question, as he was persuaded that it could not remain longer in its present state. The proposition which he now made was a step in the same direction as the resolution which the House had sanctioned six weeks ago.

Mr. HODGKINSON moved, in substitution of the first paragraph, an amendment to the effect that the levy of a rate or rent in respect of the appropriated portion of seats in churches should be authorised, but in such a manner that no appropriation of seats in any church should be made to a greater extent than now actually exists.

Mr. HEYGATE also moved the following amendment in lieu of the resolution of Mr. Estcourt:—“That, in order to effect a satisfactory settlement of the law relating to church rates, it is expedient in the first place to transfer their direct charge, together with all powers of imposing the same, from the owners to the occupiers of property.”

The discussion was continued by Sir George Grey, Mr. Disraeli, Lord Robert Cecil, Lord Henley, and Mr. Dillwyn, and ultimately the motion and amendments were severally withdrawn.

THE GALWAY CONTRACT.

LORD DUNKELLIN called attention to the position in which the Atlantic Royal Mail Company is placed by the delay of the Government to return an answer to the memorial of the company sent in to the Treasury so far back as the 24th of April. He insisted that the company had a reasonable prospect of fulfilling any engagement they might enter into.

LORD PALMERSTON promised that an answer should be given at the earliest moment.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 25.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

INNS OF COURT BILL.

The sitting was taken up with the discussion of the Inns of Court Government Bill, the second reading of which was moved by Sir G. Bowyer. He objected to the irresponsible power of the Benchers to deal with the cases of barristers against whom charges were made, and complained generally of the manner in which the funds of the Inns of Court were administered.

Mr. COLLIER, and several other members of the legal profession opposed the bill and defended the privileges of the Inns of Court.

Mr. D. SEYMOUR, whose case was alluded to by Sir G. Bowyer as one of the arguments for passing the bill, entered into a statement of the manner in which he had been dealt with by the Benchers, and justified his conduct in regard to several of the charges which had been made against him.

Mr. BOVILL replied to him, and stated what were the charges made against the hon. gentleman. He upheld the course which the Benchers had taken in the case, and plainly said that Mr. Seymour had only been created Queen's counsel in a political crisis, having before been refused the office of sergeant-at-law.

Sir G. GREY thought it necessary to deny that the dignity of Queen's counsel had been conferred on Mr. Seymour in a political crisis, and, after some further discussion, the bill was negatived without a division.

THURSDAY, JUNE 26.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

NEW MEMBER.

LORD CHARLES HUGH CLIFFORD, of Chudleigh, took the oaths and his seat. The Public-houses (Scotland) Amendment Bill, and the Leases, &c., by Incumbents Restriction Act Amendment Bill, were read a third time and passed.

NATIONAL DEFENCES.

The Earl of AIRLIE moved for certain returns relative to the expenses of the country upon the national defences up to the 31st of March last, specifying the form in which he wished those returns to be made. The noble Earl entered into a lengthened statement, the tendency of which appeared to be adverse to many of the works of fortification going on, and in favour of iron-plated ships as the best means of defence.

After some observations from Earl de Grey and Ripon and the Duke of Somerset in defence of the Government as regarded the construction of the new fortifications, and from Lord Grey in disparagement of the forts and in favour of iron-plated vessels in lieu of them, the motion was agreed to.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

TRANSFER OF LAND BILL (LORDS.)

The House went into Committee on this bill, which, after some discussion and several amendments, was agreed to.

FUNERAL OF EARL CANNING.

LORD CANNING was buried at Westminster Abbey on Saturday last. The funeral was not public; indeed, in many respects, it might have been considered too private for one who was followed to the grave by so many of those whose rank, public services, position, and character, gave them the first place in the empire. There was a considerable crowd assembled round the doors. A sunburnt, grey-headed man, who pressed to the gate and was not allowed to enter, exclaimed, “I would give all I have to see it! I served under him; and no better man lies inside these walls.”

Soon after eleven o'clock the funeral cortege passed down Victoria-street to the western cloisters. A long array of carriages followed those which contained the chief mourners, the relatives and personal friends of the deceased. About half-past eleven o'clock the door of the western cloister opened, and the head of the funeral procession entered; at the same time the organ pealed forth the solemn strains which Croft has given to the words, “I am the resurrection and the life,” and the white-robed boys of the choir chanted in unison with the clergyman the chords, to which the feet of those in the procession kept measured tread. The beadsmen, or those who receive as the last remnant of monastic beneficence the alms of the abbey, led the way in their gowns—old, white-haired veterans tottering to the grave, with many-barred ribbons, &c., supported by their younger fellow-almsmen. After the choir came the Dean and Chapter of Westminster, next a stand of waving black plumes borne on the head of one of the funeral servants. The coffin, covered with the pall, on which was emblazoned an Earl's coronet and the arms of the deceased, with the motto “Ne cede malis, sed contra,” was carried on men's shoulders up the aisle, and at its foot appeared the Marquis of Clanricarde, who, as brother-in-law of the noble dead, followed as chief mourner; then, two by two, came the mourners—Lord Dunkellin, Lord Stratford de Redcliffe, Mr. Henry Bentinck, the Earl of Harewood, the Earl of Cork, Mr. Beaumont, the Duke of Hamilton, Lord de Tabley, Lord Harris, Earl Somers, the Duke of Argyll, Sir Charles Wood, Sir George Grey, Mr. Gladstone, Mr. Cardwell, Lord Stanley of Alderley, the Duke of Somerset, Lord Lyveden, Lord Ashburton, Earl de Grey and Ripon, Earl Grey, Mr. T. Baring, the Bishop of Oxford, and a long procession of other members of the Government, associates, and friends of the deceased, servants under his administration, admirers of his public character or private virtues. We could not undertake to say who acted as mourners in that solemn procession, but all eyes were turned on Lord Palmerston in the midst of the sad train, and few could see unmoved the marks of grief upon his face. Conspicuous even in that array of illustrious men walked Lord Clyde, supporting on his arm the bowed frame of the gallant Outram. What a page in our history these men's names recall, what lives passed in the service of their country, what scenes in the last great fight which they fought under him whom they were now following to the grave! But as the eye rested on the massive frame and iron brows of Sir John Lawrence—undistinguished, except by himself, in that throng—one was tempted to exclaim, “Let not an honoured grave be all that England gives to her greatest sons; let us not follow the coffins of our illustrious dead with unavailing regrets.” There were many besides who bore their part in that year of trial, which concentrated the genius and endurance of centuries of ordinary natural life. Veterans of

the old Peninsula, who have since worked through the trenches before Sebastopol and have borne the brunt of the Indian summer—young men, like Anson, who have won their first honours against the Russian, earned the highest reward the soldier can aspire to in India, and have since passed through the smaller ordeal of the China campaign—soldiers, like Greathead, who made their mark at Delhi and Lucknow—like Grant, Gardner, and Lyndsay—all these, and many others of different classes, testified how deep was the hold of the late Governor-General of India on the hearts of those who had served under him. Sir Charles Trevelyan, General Harrington, Mr. Ross Mangles, and other gentlemen connected with Indian history, followed the funeral train, but we must close our list, omitting many illustrious names with these.

The coffin was deposited on the trestles under the choir; the persons composing the procession passed into the body of the cathedral, bearing with them the glorious music by which Handel has enabled man to say, "I know that my Redeemer liveth." Then came the grand declaration of faith in the life to come which St. Paul has given us to sustain the heart of the Christian world, "We brought nothing into this world," rolled through the aisles which bear so many testimonials of that which man has left behind him, and the psalm which tells us that "man walketh as a vain shadow and disquieteth himself in vain, he heapeth up riches and cannot tell who shall gather them," spoke in its solemn gravelike tones through the long transepts. Again the coffin was raised aloft and was borne from the choir, with the procession in the same order as before, to the north transept; there an opening in the covering of matting over the tomb-flags disclosed the resting-place of the dead—the son was indeed gathered to his father, for in the depths of that gloom lay all which was mortal of George Canning.

THE INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION.

SATURDAY A HALF-CROWN DAY.

THE exhibition was opened on Saturday last at half-a crown. Up to this time the last day of the week has always been charged five shillings; but, as few have attended but season-ticket holders, the policy of the change was obvious. The attendance on Saturday was not so large as on the previous day, which was also half-a-crown; but this is not difficult to be accounted for, as there was some misunderstanding in the public mind about the intentions of the authorities, and the attractions of the rehearsal for the Handel Festival at the Crystal Palace proved a powerful rival. The commissioners hold out hopes of making Saturday a shilling day, which they ought to have done from the first, as it is the general London workmen's half-holiday. The attendance of visitors is steadily on the increase, the largest number having been attained on Tuesday, when 65,371 persons entered the building, 61,311 of whom paid at the doors.

DECLARATION OF THE AWARDS OF THE JURIES.

The following official programme of the ceremonies on the occasion of the declaration of the awards of the juries has been published:—

1. The declaration of the awards of the juries at a state ceremony, on Friday, July 11, 1862, at one o'clock, will be made by an international representative body of Royal and distinguished personages, especially named by the various nations which have taken part in the exhibition.

2. The Queen has named his Royal Highness the Duke of Cambridge, K.G., as her Majesty's representative to receive and distribute the awards to the exhibitors of the United Kingdom and its colonies and dependencies. The special representatives of foreign countries will receive and distribute the awards to foreign exhibitors.

3. The various ceremonies will take place in the exhibition buildings and in the Horticultural Gardens, which will be treated as part of the exhibition for that day.

4. The special representatives will be received by her Majesty's Commissioners on the upper terrace of the Horticultural Gardens if the weather be favourable; if unfavourable, in the conservatory; and the international juries will then deliver their awards to the special representatives.

5. The special representatives, after receiving the awards, will pass in procession along the arcades to the exhibition buildings, and at various stations will deliver the awards to the chairman of the British class committees, to the colonial commissioners, and to the foreign commissioners, in or near those parts of the building where the principal object of each class or country are placed.

6. Upon the arrival of the special representatives at the different stations for distributing the awards, the national airs of the respective nations will be played by military bands, British and foreign. After the distribution, &c., the procession will assemble again on the upper terrace, when "God Save the Queen" will be performed by all the military bands.

7. The public will be admitted between the hours of 10 and 12.30 by season tickets or by special tickets to be purchased before the 8th of July at 7s. each; and on and after that day the price will be 7s. 6d. each. Tickets will be ready for issue on the 30th of June.

8. Exhibitors who may not have season tickets may obtain a free ticket of admission upon personal application at the offices in Exhibition-road, on or before the 8th of July.

FINANCIAL PROSPECTS OF THE EXHIBITION.

The question which the great mass of the public seem now most curious and most interested about is whether or not the exhibition will pay. Every one seems to have his own theory or opinion in this matter, and, as there is hardly any which has not been caused by some more or less inaccurate statement of receipts and expenses, a brief enumeration of facts on this important point may not be unacceptable to our readers as giving them at least a correct basis on which to form their judgment in the matter. The total sum required to clear all expenses of every kind connected with the building, and, in fact, to wind up the whole affair with satisfaction to every one, and probably leave a balance of some few hundreds in hand, is £545,000. This is including the £100,000 still to be given to Messrs. Kelk and Lucas, but is exclusive of the £130,000 required to purchase the building entirely. The agreement of the contractors is that they are to receive £200,000 for the building, and all the receipts between £100,000 and £500,000; but if from this latter source they receive another £100,000, then they are to sell the building absolutely to the commissioners for £130,000 more. Thus, if the total receipts only reach £450,000, it will clear the guarantors and pay everything, but it will leave Messrs. Kelk and Lucas without their £100,000; whereas if, as we have said, they amount to £545,000, it will satisfy every demand and leave a small balance. Towards this large sum the commissioners have already got £220,000 in hand. The receipts since the shilling days began in payments at the doors, have varied from £2000 to £3200 per diem, the average being about £2300 a day. But to this has to be added the head-money paid by the refreshment contractors; Mr. Morris pays five-eighths of a penny on all visitors; M. Veillard only pays on half-crown, five-shilling, or season-ticket visitors, having compounded by a payment of £5000 down for his head-money on the shilling days. Mr. Morris, therefore, pays from £80 to £90 a day, and M. Veillard's payments are from £30 to £40. These sources of revenue, with the profits derived on the sale of catalogues, care of sticks, umbrellas, &c., have brought up the daily receipts to about £2600. The exhibition has still ninety-eight days to remain open; so that, if the daily receipts continued throughout as low as they have hitherto been, the Commissioners would only receive £254,000 in addition to the £220,000 they have already in hand. This sum would clear the guarantors and all expenses, but would leave Messrs. Kelk and Lucas with only £29,000 instead of their £100,000—a loss which every one would regret; for, taking all in all, not any have worked harder or more conscientiously for the success of the undertaking than Mr. Kelk or Messrs. Charles and Thomas Lucas. This calculation is based on the payments throughout from all sources only averaging £2600 a day. But on Tuesday the money payment at the doors was in round numbers £3075, and the receipts from the other sources we have mentioned—the head-money, sale of catalogues, care of sticks, &c., which is, of course, always in proportion to the attendance, probably brought up this sum to £3300. If this was the average to the close it would give the commissioners £330,000, in addition to their £220,000, enabling them to wind up with £10,000 clear profit. This is taking the moderate view of the case, for the exhibition is most steadily rising in popular favour, and, even admitting that there will be many wet and unfavourable days, when the attendance will be less than 30,000; still, there will be very many days, especially towards the close, when 80,000, 90,000, or even 100,000 will pay their shilling.

OPERA AND CONCERTS.

THE HANDEL FESTIVAL.

NOTHING is more remarkable in connection with the great Handel celebrations at the Crystal Palace than the progressive excellence which they have exhibited. The first "festival" was avowedly only a rehearsal. It was the first performance of the kind that had ever been heard, but it was nevertheless looked upon by its projectors only as an experiment, and it was surpassed in many respects by the performance of 1859, which indeed, in the opinion of many persons, left nothing to be desired. Compared to the colossal concert of the Crystal Palace, the monster musical meetings of the Parisian "Palace of Industry" were failures both as to the quality of the music executed and as to the merit and effect of the execution. M. Berlioz had called in electricity and charlatanism to his aid, but his magnetic conductors availed him nothing while he had inferior vocal and instrumental forces at his command. Mr. Costa, with the ordinary system of signals, was able to control and direct an army as unapproachable by the French in numbers as in the requisite attainments for choralsinging. Altogether, the result of the Centenary performance in 1859 was so gratifying and so successful in all respects that a general wish was felt for its repetition; and if we are now commemorating the hundredth anniversary of Handel's death a hundred and three years after the event, all we can say is so much the better for those who were not present at the Handel Festival three years ago, and so much the better for those who were and who imagined that that magnificent celebration could not possibly be improved upon. We are glad to see that the Handel Festival is now to be of periodical occurrence, and that it is to be held regularly every three years. It was time, indeed, that London, as well as the cathedral cities of Gloucester, Worcester, and Hereford, and some half-dozen of our manufacturing towns, should have its great harmonic holiday. England possesses a number of musical centres to which the inhabitants of the surrounding districts are attracted at certain fixed periods to hear the works of the greatest of all sacred composers; and now London has been made the great central point to which every three years the students and admirers of Handel will flock from all parts of the country. This is a gratifying fact in itself, and it is also the natural historical result of the general and growing interest felt by Englishmen of all classes in the music of a sublime composer who belongs to us in so far that he lived the greater part of his life among us, that he wrote for us and for our language, and that we have adopted his masterpieces more thoroughly and sympathetically even than the country which gave him birth. The first "festivals" grew out of the reunion of the choirs of neighbouring cathedrals for the purpose of performing Handel's oratorios together. The Gloucester and Worcester choirs visited Hereford, the Worcester and Hereford choirs Gloucester, the Hereford and Gloucester choirs Worcester. Then a number of commercial towns built magnificent music-halls, or townhalls adapted for musical performances, and founded their festivals, in all of which the place of honour has invariably been assigned to the oratorios of Handel. In the meanwhile the Sacred Harmonic Society—the offspring or offshoot of some other association whose name we forget—had been established in London, and in time it became the custom for London to send her best orchestra to take part in the provincial festivals, the provinces occasionally returning this service by sending us detachments of their best singers. Large bodies of amateurs and musicians were already brought together in various parts of the country by one common object—the national love of the music of our really national composer—but it still remained to organize a great metropolitan meeting of Handelians from all quarters of England, and by means of their united forces to produce Handel's great works in a style worthy of the country with which his name is indelibly associated, and which in no other country would be attainable. It is no vain boast to say that England alone could produce three thousand five hundred singers familiar with Handel's oratorios, and capable of executing the majestic choruses in which they abound. Germany certainly possesses more and better chorus-singers than England, but not nearly so many who are acquainted with Handel's music, and who know precisely how it ought to be sung.

The host of chorus-singers assembled this week at the Crystal Palace to do honour to Handel was a suggestive sight in more respects than one. It was, in the first place, the largest choir ever known, and promised such a volume of musical sound (a promise fully kept) as never moved the air before. Then it testified, in the face of thousands of foreigners, to our national love of music, and especially of the music of Handel, one of the greatest of great composers. It was comparatively nothing that the Crystal Palace should be crowded with hearers; but that the army of singers whom they were there to hear should have been recruited from almost every town of importance in the kingdom was something for foreigners, incredulous as to our musical tastes, to prase and wonder at. Nor had the provinces been by any means drained of their vocalists for this great occasion. Each town had sent simply a deputation. If all the choral societies of England had come to Sydenham, the Crystal Palace would scarcely have sufficed to hold them.

This sight, moreover, told a very significant story as to the condition of our working classes, or at least the better portion of them. A large number of the choristers were operatives from such towns as Bradford, Leeds, and Manchester; and if weavers, spinners, and factory-girls have leisure and inclination to study Handel's music, and have even attained sufficient artistic cultivation to be able to sing it very beautifully, surely this little fact speaks volumes in favour of their industry, their morality, and their general intelligence, and shows us that, under ordinary circumstances, the position of workpeople in our manufacturing districts is far indeed from being as miserable as the foreign writers of works on "the decadence of England" would have their readers believe. And let no one imagine that the choruses of operatives are usually inferior to those of amateurs in a more fortunate sphere of life. They are well taught, considerable rivalry exists among them, and, as a rule, they are excellent. Probably the Bradford choir, which consists almost entirely, though not exclusively, of operatives, is the best in all England. At the last Bradford festival the precision, and above all the spirit, of its execution were admired no less than the beauty of the voices, which are celebrated even in Yorkshire, the best-voiced county in England. The Italian vocalists, accustomed to the hum-drum style of our operatic choruses, were struck, one and all, by the freshness and vivacity displayed in the singing of the Bradford workpeople; for the members of the choral societies in the manufacturing towns are, for the most part, young men and women, and they sing because they like it, whereas the members of our operatic choruses are, for the most part, old, and sing because they are paid for it.

Of the performance of "The Messiah" (Monday) of the selections from "Judas Maccabeus," "Joshua," "Solomon," "Saul," "Acis and Galatea," "The Dettingen Te Deum," &c. (Wednesday), and of "Israel in Egypt" (Friday), we need scarcely speak in detail. The solo singers engaged for the festival were, as every one knows, Mlle. Titiens, the best and most impressive singer of sacred music now living; Mmes. Lemmens-Sherrington, whose delicate, flexible voice makes her one of the most fluent and at the same time expressive "light sopranos" of the day; Mmes. Stanton-Dolby, with her full, rich tones; and (to cease the needless characterisation of singers whose qualities are universally known) Mr. Sims Reeves, Signor Belletti, and Mr. Weiss. We have said that, admirable as the execution of Handel's music was at the Festival of 1859, it was still finer, or at least produced a finer effect, on this last occasion. The voices and instruments are perhaps a little better balanced; but, however that may be, it is certain that the new roof to the orchestra is an immense improvement, and that it helps to intensify the sound to an almost incalculable extent. Were it not for the wooden sides and roof which now inclose the orchestra and chorus as in a theatre, the musical waves, with all their magnitude, would roll out in all directions and lose themselves in space. The roof of the Crystal Palace was soon found, as far as its utility in a musical point of view is concerned, to be no roof at all. It seemed to have no more effect on the sound in the way of compressing it than the clouds, or "the firmament on high." The *celestial* of 1859 made things a little better, but occasionally the undulations seemed to pass through it

as water passes through a piece of fine cloth. The substitution of a wooden roof for the *celarium* has now—taken in connection with the wooden sides—made the orchestral arrangements as complete as they well can be. In such an enormous audience-department, and with such an immense vocal and instrumental body to act upon the audience, some persons may have found themselves too near the band, others too far away from the solo singers. One visitor may have placed himself too close to the division of tenors, another may have sat beneath the shadow of the brigade of basses; but, on the whole, the Handel Festival of the year 1862 has been marvellously, as it certainly has been unprecedentedly, successful; and it would seem that the directors have now learned the art of giving these colossal performances with all possible perfection.

We have not much space left for noticing the production of "Robert le Diable." Suffice it for the present to state that it has been brought out in a style of almost unexampled splendour; that the scene in the churchyard, "scènes des nonnes," is a masterpiece of theatrical painting, decoration, and architecture; that the orchestra is excellent and the chorus tolerable; and that the general cast is highly satisfactory, though there is not one part in the opera which is played in a really first-rate style. We ought, perhaps, to make an exception in favour of Signor Tamberlik; but certainly this admirable Italian singer is not the best "Robert" we have ever seen, nor is "Robert" by any means his best character. So, without any disrespect to Mmes. Mielan-Carvalho and Mmes. Penco, we have known better "Isabellas" and "Alices" than they can present to us; better "Raimbaults" than Neri-Beraldi; better "Bertrams" than Herr Formes, who, however, was suffering the night that the opera was played for the first time with severe hoarseness.

Mrs. Holman Andrews gave an interesting matinee last week, in which many singers and musicians of eminence took part. Miss Louisa Pyne (who, we are delighted to hear, is about to appear at her Majesty's Theatre, though we should be still more delighted to see her at the Royal Italian Opera) sang one of her favourite airs in her most charming style. Herr Kliudworth played a solo on the piano, and several pieces of chamber music were performed. The songs were accompanied by Mrs. Andrews.

The sixth of Mr. Charles Halle's Beethoven recitals takes place next Friday. Mr. Benedict's annual concert is announced for the 30th of June, at St. James's Hall.

THE BURSTING OF THE FLEET DITCH.

WE this week give two Engravings illustrative of the recent accident at the works of the Underground Railway in the vicinity of the Fleet Ditch sewer, Clerkenwell, in making the sketches for which we were much indebted to the courtesy of Mr. Cooper, the resident engineer of the Metropolitan Board of Works, and his assistant, Mr. Fry.

The scene of the accident, like the scenes of all great accidents, is rather impressive. The fallen brickwork represents a mass about equal in extent and appearance to the destroyed sluice at the Middle-Level Drain. The fallen roadway, with the bent lamp-post and the pavement, looks as if it had been sucked down by a whirlpool. Without the lamp post—the half-destroyed landmark—this part of the ruin would only be a heap of ordinary rubbish. Going to the edge of the planking which overlooks the deep cutting, you see the great shattered wall of yellow bricks leaning against this treacherous ground, and near the base, just above the level of the water, you may notice where part of the walls have snapped off from their foundations, like pieces of broken matchwood. Under the side of the roadway still standing, deep down amongst fallen timbers and pipes, is the black hole of the Fleet sewer, like a broken artery, pouring out a thick rapid stream which found its way fiercely by many windings into the railway cutting. In this cutting some eight feet of sewer water collected, in which floated a number of planks, thrown down when part of the shoring gave way with the brickwork. This flood extended in a stream of gradually-decreasing depth up the tunnel running north under Coppice-row and Bagnigge-wells-road, as far as Frederick-street.

Stretching across the gulf in several directions are the broken brown pipes of the gas companies, while along the side runs a rough water main of the New River, showing part of the web of pipes through which the railroad has had to be steered. In the middle of the muddy pool, standing amongst the floating timbers, is the large tomb which contains all the bones and bodies from the old Clerkenwell pauper burial-ground, which stood near the same spot. A corner of this tomb has been knocked off by the uplifted struts, and sufficient damage has been done to it to excite the imagination of the curious, especially as one murderer, if not more, is said to be buried there.

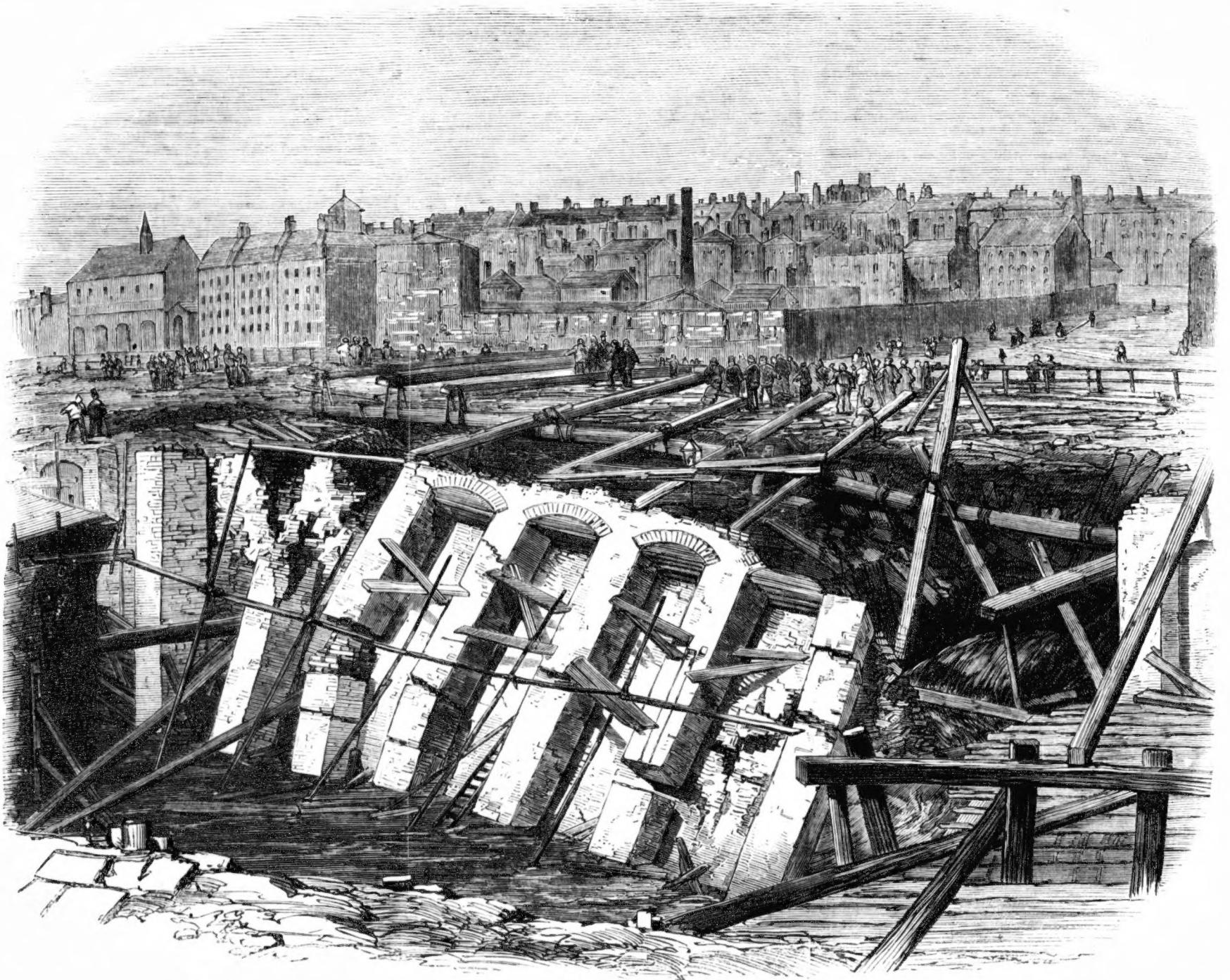
The inhabitants of Play-street who live over the brokers' and bird-cage sellers' shops seem to enjoy the full view of the ruin as they smoke their pipes at their windows, and their friends also seem to come from many quarters to take tea and enjoy the sight likewise. The confidence shown by all these poor people in the shorings which alone save them and their houses from tumbling headlong into the pit is something marvellous. The gipsy-like inhabitants of Fryingpan-alley and other similar delicious retreats are kept outside the borders of the ruin by a strong body of police, but the dwellers in Peartree-court have free passes within the barriers, and they help to swell the crowd of gaping visitors.

On Saturday night last the temporary cut, partly new and partly running in the line of the old Fleet ditch under the walls of the once-famous Chartist Hall, was opened to carry the sewage from the north side of the broken sewer to the south side, round the ruin, but without success. The damming was washed away, but the water, having an outlet through a district sewer, did not rise in the cutting. The tide here rises in the sewer to a considerable height, and one of the labourers last week caught a very fine eel while at work at a spot once famous in tradition for silver trout.

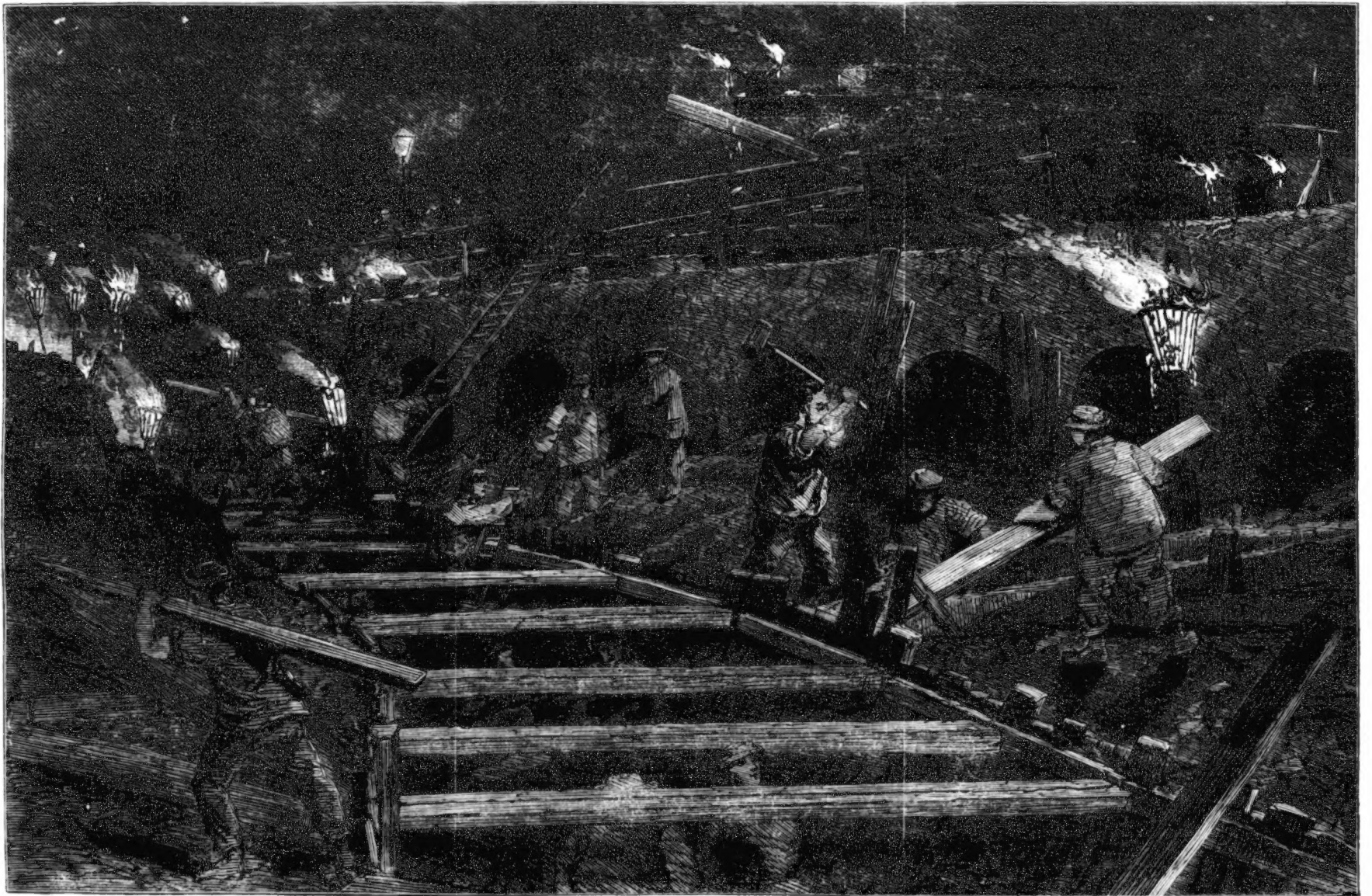
After unremitting exertions, Mr. Cooper and Mr. Fry at length succeeded in obtaining a mastery over the inundation. They constructed a dam across the railway tunnel, which, although at first inefficient, has been strengthened and has been made effective in stemming the torrent. At the same time they cut a new water-course or grip by which to divert the waters from the railway works; and, after great exertions, these measures were at last successful, and the water now flows along the new course without any apparent likelihood of further mischief being done. The damage already caused, however, is very considerable, and some time will be required to place the railway works in the condition in which they were previous to the bursting of the sewer. The rebuilding of a considerable portion of the sewer itself will also occupy some time, and will be attended with a serious expense. The cause of the accident is believed to be, that the digging out of the earth in the neighbourhood of the sewer had so weakened its walls that they were unable to resist the pressure of the large volume of water produced by the late heavy rains. A question, it is said, is likely to arise as to who shall bear the cost of rectifying the mischief done—the railway company, the railway contractor, or the Metropolitan Board of Works.

An inspection of the ditch made by the engineers on Wednesday disclosed the unpleasant fact that the brickwork is in a much worse condition than was believed, the state of things rendering it necessary to carry the repairs on to a higher point, and to deepen still further the channel by which the current was diverted; and, as a preliminary to both, the current was allowed again to flow among the ruins. The railway tunnel does not suffer from these changes.

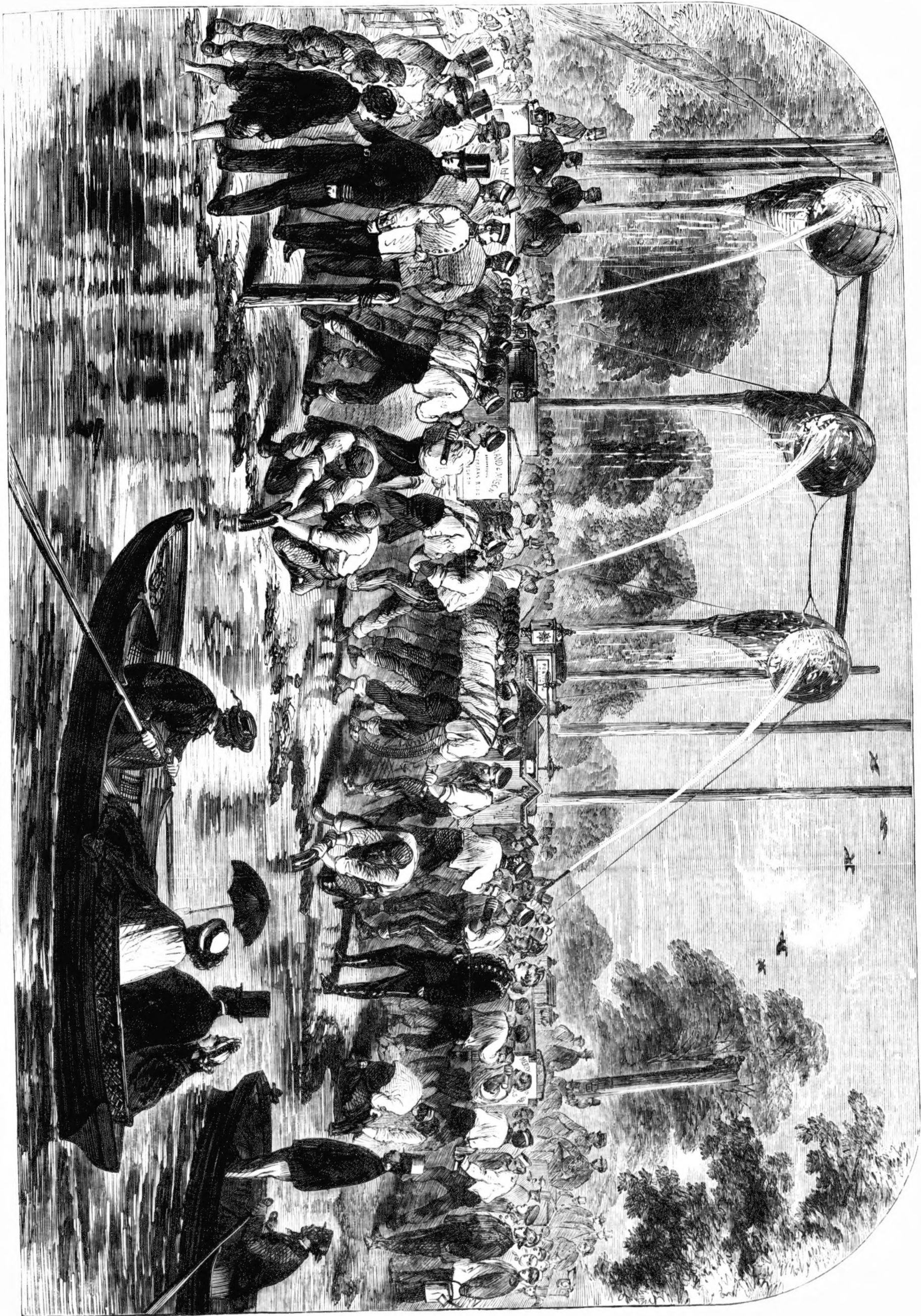
ELECTION OF SHERIFFS FOR LONDON AND MIDDLESEX.—A meeting of the Livery of London took place on Tuesday at Guildhall for the election of sheriffs. There was unusual excitement, the office being this year an object of ambition, as it is expected that dignities will be forthcoming to the holders on the occasion of the Prince of Wales attaining his majority. The candidates are Alderman J. C. Lawrence, Mr. Nason, and Mr. Jones. The show of hands was in favour of the two latter gentlemen, when the altar in a moment a poll, which was at once opened, and up to the present time gives a large majority for Mr. Jones and Alderman Lawrence. The polling will be continued for seven days.



BURSTING OF THE FLEET SEWER.—VIEW OF THE DAMAGE DONE TO THE WORKS OF THE METROPOLITAN UNDERGROUND RAILWAY.



NAVVIES ENGAGED IN TURNING THE COURSE OF THE FLEET DITCH.



OFFICIAL TRIAL OF FIRE-ENGINES FROM THE INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION ON THE BANKS OF THE SERPENTINE.

TRIAL OF FIRE-ENGINES IN HYDE PARK.

On the 24th inst., at an early hour, the Royal Commissioners of the International Exhibition assembled on the banks of the Serpentine river, near Kensington-gardens, for the purpose of witnessing the working of the fire-engines sent to the exhibition by the various manufacturers previous to adjudicating upon the respective merits of the machines.

Amongst those officially engaged during the morning were the Duke of Sutherland; Professor Rankin, of Glasgow University; Mr. C. B. King; Mr. E. J. Colburn, C.E.; Charles White, Esq., of the County Fire Office; Mr. English, F.R.S., late Superintendent of the Leeds Fire Brigade; Mr. Peek, from Amsterdam; Mr. Hewitt, Superintendent of the Fire Police at Liverpool; Sir C. Wentworth Duke; W. Brown, Esq., of the Westminster Fire Office; Messrs. Shand and Mason; Mr. Merryweather; Mr. Rose, of Manchester; Mr. Roberts, the patentee of the new fire-engines, Millwall; Mr. F. Hodges, the distiller of Lambeth; Signor Cassentini, the designer of the Hodges testimonial engine; Messrs. Baddeley, Spencer, and Gordon, and the representatives of the West Ham, Notting-hill, Coventry, Manchester, Hackney—and, indeed, most of the fire brigades in the kingdom.

The first experiment commenced with a trial of the engines of Messrs. Shand and Mason; of Messrs. Merryweather and Sons, of Long-acre; and of those built by Messrs. Rose, of Manchester, the results obtained being as follows:—

MERRYWEATHER AND SON'S LONDON BRIGADE ENGINE.

31 strokes in 30 seconds delivered 78 gallons.
34 " " " " 79 "
38 " " " " 82 "

SHAND AND MASON'S BRIGADE ENGINE.

29 strokes in 30 seconds delivered 62 gallons.
31 " " " " 64 "
33 " " " " 70 "

ROSE'S BRIGADE ENGINE.

30 strokes in 30 seconds delivered 60 gallons.
31 " " " " 65 "
33 " " " " 68 "

The grand testimonial engine presented by the inhabitants of Lambeth to Mr. Hodges was next tried against one built by the same makers, Messrs. Merryweather, and the result was that in two minutes the engine belonging to the makers threw 100 gallons more than that more recently built by the same firm. The water was discharged 60ft. horizontally and 20ft. vertically.

While the experiments were going on, some members of the Royal family passed over the Serpentine-bridge, apparently to witness from their carriages the operations of the engines. The bank on the south side of the Serpentine was densely crowded, but the greatest order was maintained by the police.

The various engines sent to the International Exhibition were subsequently tried in the presence of Captain Shaw, the superintendent of the London Brigade, and Mr. Gordon (City), Mr. Spencer (West-end), and Mr. Baddeley (north division) of the Royal Society for the Protection of Life from Fire; Mr. Sampson Low, the secretary, acting as referee over his men. A great number of conductors were present to show how the machines could be advantageously used in case of accident by fire.

The Duke of Sutherland, with the Royal commissioners, attended the trials made throughout the day; and, without going into minor details, we may state that a very important trial took place between one of Merryweather's engines, Captain Fowkes's engine, and Mr. Roberts's engine, the patentee of Millwall. Roberts's engine, with a 57 stroke threw 114 gallons, and with a 60 stroke 117 gallons, only twenty men working at the engine. Captain Fowkes's engine, made by Shand and Mason, with twelve men threw 109 gallons of water in two minutes. Messrs. Merryweather's engine, with 76 strokes in one minute, threw 125 gallons, overflowing the measuring-box. In a second trial, making 56 strokes in 45 seconds, it delivered 96 gallons. In a third trial, making 56 strokes in one minute, it delivered 113 gallons. Messrs. Warner and Son's, of Jewin-crescent, with a small portable engine, did wonders; but all of a sudden, as with the "True Blue" engine, it broke down, owing to the lever giving way. The smaller engines from various parts of the country were also tried, one against the other. Hodges's (made by Merryweather and designed by Signor Cassentini) carried off the palm in the last but two of the experiments; for, owing to the great alterations made in the construction of the engine, it threw such an immense quantity of water as to astonish all present. The other engines, with the exception of the mishaps by breaking down, performed for a time most admirably.

Merryweather and Shand and Mason were pronounced by the judges to have produced the best manufactured and most effective fire-engines.

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ILLUSTRATED TIMES.

SATURDAY, JUNE 28, 1862.

THE CHIVALRY OF WAR.

OF all the sad incidents evoked by the war now raging in America there are none more shocking than those which show that on each side the principles of chivalry in battle have been almost discarded. It is not only on trying occasions, or in affairs of high import, that these rules have been flung aside. The simple grace of quarter to prisoners was, in the first instance, threatened to be denied, until the intimation of probable and sanguinary reprisals showed that mercy to the vanquished is a kind of necessity of human conflict. In the affair of the Trent, perhaps not even the fact of the wrongful capture of a neutral vessel was so distasteful to the European mind as the studious neglect of ordinary forms of courtesy which accompanied the capture. It appears strange to us to hear of an army, as after Bull Run, bragging of an unexampled defeat, and certainly no less strange to find Generals on each side surnamed, before distinguishing themselves, in imitation of great Captains of former times, and on the eve of battles discounting their own glory by boasting proclamations. Besides all this, we have had the open and avowed employment of privateers and the too-well authenticated slaughter of pickets and single sentries on each side—a cruel, unnecessary, and utterly useless style of campaigning which has long been out of date among civilized nations. To these succeeded the horrors, narrated with at least some show of veracity, of the sanguinary revenge wreaked upon the dead, of jawbones converted into spurs, and skulls into drinking cups. Had these

atrocities been complained of only, one might well have doubted their truth; but as, on the contrary, we find them stated as a matter of boast, it is difficult to avoid the conclusion that those who could make the boast would glory in the act itself upon opportunity. Then came the shameful proclamation of General Butler as to the treatment to be expected by such ladies of New Orleans as should insult or annoy his army of occupation. This, again, was followed by the reports of the treatment to which a routed and flying regiment was subjected upon its retreat through the streets of a town of which the inhabitants, female as well as male, caused great loss of life by the discharge of firearms and by hurling missiles, and even *boiling water*, upon the harassed soldiers. Then another seizure of an unarmed vessel is signalled by loud and long-continued shoutings on the part of the captors as the national and rightful flag of their prize is hauled down. Last of all, and only last because the ink which proclaims it is scarcely dry while we write, the passenger along London streets may see announced in large capitals, as a glorious item of news in an American journal published among us, the alleged capture of Mrs. General Beauregard!

We do not care exactly to lift up our hands in affected amazement at all this, and to pretend that European wars have always been conducted with rigid regard to the observances supposed to have been concomitant with the chivalric ages. War is at all times a dreadful and a hideous thing, and the soldiers who compose the best of armies are not always Bayards. We know that even at Agincourt our own gallant Henry V. gave the order for a wholesale massacre of hundreds of prisoners, many of them of the noblest blood. We will not attempt to blink the barbarous destruction of Kertch, with its world-renowned museum; or the pillage and burning of the Summer Palace at Peking. But we cannot forget that in the main the last Russian war was carried out with some deference to the position of non-combatants, and that, whether true or false, some such reason was accepted by the public as satisfactory for the sparing of Odessa.

What we would wish to point out is that among nations trained and educated to war there have been established and still remain certain honourable usages of battle which communities less accustomed to the field systematically slight and ignore. And in reflecting upon this matter it becomes us to consider whether even the aristocratic element, which has ever been so prominent in European armies, may not at least have tended to mitigate the horrors of battle. The grand respect for woman, the noblest legacy left us by the chivalric age, appears to be almost unknown in the contests of the New World. At the same time, we cannot but believe that after a period America will find it not only advisable but absolutely necessary to conform to those precepts which Europe has found fit to adopt even in the fiercest moments of broil and battle.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

HER MAJESTY left Windsor for Osborne on Friday week, where it is expected she will remain till July 21, and then return to Windsor.

THE WEDDING OF PRINCESS ALICE will be conducted so privately that there will not even be music; and the great officers of State will take their departure immediately after luncheon.

KING VICTOR EMMANUEL has granted a pension of 100,000*l.* per annum out of his private purse, and lodgings, to the widow of the Prince of Capua.

THE QUEEN OF SPAIN has been safely delivered of a Princess. Her Majesty and the child are announced to be in a favourable condition.

PRINCE LOUIS OF HESSE, accompanied by his brother, Prince Henry, arrived at Dover on Tuesday, and has since visited the International Exhibition and the Royal Agricultural Society's Show in Battersea-park.

A MARRIAGE is arranged to take place between the Earl of Eglinton and Lady Sophia Adelaide Theodosia Pelham, only daughter of the late and sister of the present Earl of Yarborough.

THE PRUSSIAN CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES has adopted a bill abolishing passports.

A CURIOUS RETURN just issued shows that the number of sheep killed by dogs in Ireland in the year 1861 was no less than 8397.

A MARRIAGE is arranged between Lady Blanche Craven, third daughter of the Earl and Countess of Craven, and Mr. George John Bruce, son of Lord and Lady Ernest Bruce.

ON the 10th there was a large fire at Quebec, upwards of one hundred houses being burnt.

THE VICTORIA CROSS has been awarded to Captain H. G. Browne, 32nd Regiment, for gallant conduct at Lucknow.

A FINE NUGGET, weighing 117oz., has recently been found on the South Lead, at the Lachlan diggings, New South Wales.

AT SWAFFHAM, the other day, Tom Sayers, the pugilist, was charged with assaulting Mr. Green, in the circus of the former, during a dispute about the admission-fee. Sayers was fined 2*s.*

THE JAPANESE EMBASSY TO EUROPE arrived at Rotterdam on the 14th inst., where they were received by the Royal Commissioner, M. Laudon, at the yacht-club house, which was gallily and tastefully ornamented for the occasion.

IN 1818 the imports into the province of Otago, New Zealand, amounted to £11,869, and the exports were nil. In 1861 the imports amounted to £859,733, and the exports to £844,419.

IN THE YEAR 1861, 3,790,776 cwt. of foreign sugar of all sorts were taken for home consumption in the United Kingdom—an increase of above 30,000 cwt. over the previous year. Nearly half the entire quantity was from Cuba.

IT IS RUMOURED that Russia is about to acknowledge the kingdom of Italy.

MISS EMILY FAITHFULL, of the Victoria Press, has received from the Lord Chamberlain a warrant appointing her Publisher and Printer in Ordinary to the Queen.

EXPERIENCED COTTON CULTIVATORS speak in the highest terms both of the bulk and quality of the crop now being raised on the Queensland Cotton Company's plantations, Australia.

MESSRS. GEORGE PRABODY AND Co. (the American house) have given to each of their clerks £1 worth of tickets and three days' holiday to enable them to visit the Exhibition building, in addition to the period annually allotted for recreation.

THE EGYPTIAN COTTON CROP for the present year is estimated at 700,000 quintals. The cotton crop for the year 1861 was estimated at 600,000 quintals, of which four-fifths were exported to England and the remainder to the continent of Europe.

IN ORDER to keep pace with the advance which has been made during the last few years in the size of ships, the wet and dry docks and the floating basins in course of formation at Chatham will be sufficiently capacious to receive vessels at least 100 feet longer than any of those now attached to the Navy.

A MEETING OF THE MEMBERS OF THE EDINBURGH COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS was held on Friday week to decide the question of the admission of ladies to the medical profession. On a division, sixteen members voted for the admission of ladies to the profession, and eighteen against, being a majority of two against the proposal.

THE FRENCH LEGITIMISTS are at present assembled in great force at Lucerne. The particular object of the meeting is not stated, though it is said to be for the purpose of offering the Count de Chambord an opportunity of explaining the reasons of his policy of abstinence. The Count de Chambord daily entertains at dinner 120 persons.

A GREAT FIRE has occurred in Constantinople, which raged for several hours before it could be checked. Upwards of 500 shops and houses are said to have been destroyed.

IT IS NOW ASSERTED that the object of the King of Portugal's choice is the Princess of Hanover, and not the Princess Pia, of Italy, as formerly stated.

DENMARK has offered to convey 3000 slaves who have lost their masters in America to the sugar plantations in the island of St. Croix, and to employ them there upon the same terms as the free negroes.

MR. WILLIAM COULSON, the chief of the brave sinkers who worked so nobly to rescue the poor buried miners at Hartley, and whose name will long be a household word in the mining districts of Northumberland and Durham, has just been presented with a valuable gold watch and chain by a body of miners in Westphalia.

A COMPANY OF ENGLISH CAPITALISTS have applied, it is announced, to the Italian Government for the concession to construct all railways in the island of Sardinia.

THE ANNUAL DINNER OF THE ROYAL LITERARY FUND took place on Wednesday evening, at the Freemason's Tavern, Earl Granville presiding. The subscriptions during the evening amounted to over £700.

THE ANNUAL CRICKET-MATCH between the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge has resulted in a decisive triumph for the Cantabs, who took the lead from the first, and never gave their Oxonian antagonists a chance of defeating them.

EVERY HOUSE IN ST. PETERSBURG has now its watchman stationed at the door, who follows every one who goes in. A thousand soldiers have been selected from the guard to act as extra policemen. According to one of the latest accounts, 600 arrests have been made, and the number daily increases.

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL W. W. WYNN, M.P. for Montgomeryshire, died on the 22nd instant. A contest for the vacant seat is anticipated.

AT OXFORD, JOHN ASHFORD, alias George Smith, John Hill, J. W. Scott, has been committed for trial on a charge of bigamy, four times repeated. He was about to marry two other young women.

LARGE QUANTITIES OF COPPER CHROME have been found near Nelson, New Zealand. Gold has also been found there, and coal. The ship Sir George Pollock cleared for London from Nelson on March 14 with 4764 oz. of gold and 30 tons of chrome.

DURING THE BATTLE BEFORE RICHMOND the Federals sent up a balloon, and the Confederates trained a gun at it, and sent some shells so close to it that the aeronaut took fright, and rapidly descended to the ground.

A PRUSSIAN ARTILLERY OFFICER has discovered a new cannon of which great things are predicted. The principle is said to be widely different from that of any existing class of ordnance, and an immense effect is to be produced by a proportionately small calibre.

A CRICKET-MATCH was last week played between eleven of the best English players of Liverpool and Birkenhead and eleven Scotchmen resident in the former town, which resulted in a victory for the Northerners by 107 runs. A return match is to take place at Birkenhead on the 12th proximo, when the Saxons hope to retrieve their laurels.

A MAN, said to be a hundred years old, came from Calabria to Naples to see Victor Emmanuel in his glory, and, on account of his old age, had a personal interview with the Sovereign. The old man, in his enthusiasm, committed a bit of a Paddyism, as he exclaimed, "Ah! Sire, now that I have seen you, you may die!"

A CENTRAL RELIEF COMMITTEE has been organised in Manchester. The committee will be glad to receive contributions towards the relief of the distress in the manufacturing districts of Lancashire, Yorkshire, Derbyshire, and Cheshire, and will undertake to dispense these funds through existing agencies, or new ones to be established.

THE LOUNGER AT THE CLUBS.

On the subject of politics I shall this week say but little, simply because there is little to be said. You will have seen that the erection of the forts at Spithead is to be suspended, and that the consideration of the subject is to be postponed till next Session. Your readers will probably think that we are indebted to Mr. Bernal Osborne for this. Well, in some small measure, no doubt, we are; but the principal credit belongs to Sir Morton Peto, who has lately published and sent to every member of the House an admirable pamphlet, which embodies the whole case against the scheme of fortifications. The fact is this, Mr. Osborne found voice and Sir Morton facts and arguments, which those who know the men will think is a very good arrangement. I have, however, pretty good reason to know that it was Sir Morton's pamphlet that did the business, and not Osborne's eloquence. In fact, before Bernal opened his fire the Government had surrendered. £12,000 a month will, however, still be required for the Portsmouth-hill works, &c.

A rumour got to the House last week that the Reform Club had closed its doors—was, in fact, done up; and part of the rumour was true. The doors were closed because the carpenter was repairing them!

There is a passion now abroad for the huge, the vast, the gigantic. Nothing small is tolerated. We have big exhibitions, interminable picture-galleries, gigantic concerts; but it is more than questionable whether we do not diminish effect by increasing size. At all events, I have long since come to a decision that gigantic concerts are a failure; and, if we reflect for a moment, it must be so. The principal elements in a performance of choral music are tune, time, and expression; and who does not see at a glance that every unit that we add to the number of the chorists diminishes the chance of perfection in every one of these elements? Perfect harmony from a very large choir is very difficult of attainment, perfect time has never been achieved, and expression anything like perfection is an absolute impossibility. I see that almost all the papers laud the performances at the rehearsal on Saturday at the Crystal Palace as a great success. Well, I was there, and, all these authoritative laudations notwithstanding, I must declare that the thing was, in a great measure, a failure. The solos were admirably performed. *Mdme. Sainton-Dolby* sang "Return, O Lord," with all her usual power; *Mdme. Titiens* gave "Let the bright seraphim" with a dramatic effect that I hardly ever heard before; *Mr. Sims Reeves* sang "Love in her eyes" to perfection; and when the music moved in distinct masses in the choruses, as in some parts of "The Hallelujah" and in that wonderful chorus responsive to "Return, O Lord," "To dust his glory they shall tread," the performance was creditable enough; but in every instance where the fugue became complicated, then came indistinctness and confusion, and in some cases every trace of Handel's idea was lost. Take the "Amen Chorus" as an example. I am quite aware that the chorus is exceedingly difficult. Few musical men understand its meaning, to begin with; and as to realising Handel's idea, I despair of ever hearing this done. And I am quite sure it never can be done by 4000, nor by 400, singers. For, reflect—to perform this wonderful chorus well there must be faultless time and the most perfect expression. I have no doubt that the author's idea was a chorus of angels on the wing in the air—rising, descending, advancing, retreating, in separate troops, each troop singing in response to the others. Each part, therefore, ought now to swell out into loudness and anon to die away almost to silence. Now, how can the accurate time and perfect expression necessary to the realisation of such an idea be attained by 4000, or even 400, chorists? The thing is impossible. At the Crystal Palace this chorus was, to my fancy, a mere blare of unintelligible noise.

The causes of the failure of this attempt at choral singing on so vast a scale are not far to seek. First, you cannot get such a number of singers sufficiently well trained to sing the music; secondly, if you could get them, it is questionable whether even Costa could effectually control them, magical as his baton is; and, lastly, there is still, notwithstanding all that has been done to improve the orchestra, a perceptible resonant reverberation, not to say a positive echo, which alone would mar all complicated and delicate music.

It seems that I made a mistake a few weeks ago in stating that Mr. Robertson, the new member for Shrewsbury, is the son-in-law of Mr. Brassy, the railway contractor. It appears that it is Mr. Oakley, the unsuccessful candidate, and not Mr. Robertson, who is connected with Mr. Brassy's family.

M. Alphonse Esquiros, whose papers on English society in the *Revue des Deux Mondes* have made him so famous, writes an article about Frenchmen in London in the new number of the *Cornhill*. "Romola" is the title of the novel which the author of "Adam Bede" contributes to this magazine, and it commences with a handsome instalment of forty pages. The *Cornhill's* yellow covers are henceforth to be swelled by an additional article—a review of the literature, science, and art of the month.

The following dialogue is said to have taken place near the door of

one of our theatres, at which a series of the most palpable dramatic failures has recently formed the programme. The parties were a chance passenger and an old woman selling bills:—Old woman: "Buy a bill of the play, Sir."—Passenger: "No, thank you."—Old woman: "Do buy a bill, Sir."—Passenger: "No, I am not going to the theatre."—Old woman: "But do buy a bill, Sir—only a penny—and I'll give you a horder."

The supper given by the members of the Savage Club and "other gentlemen connected with literature and art" has found a pleasant and amusing, if unreliable, chronicler in the person of M. Busquet, the correspondent of the *Patrie*, at present among us. "The chairman," he says, "was Mr. Love, Esq., the esteemed editor of the *Critic*. The vice-presidents were Messrs. Tomeling and Cruickshank, this last a very celebrated caricaturist, the European glory;" which, being interpreted, means that Mr. Love, Esq., was Mr. James Lowe; "Tomeling" was Mr. Fred. Tomlins, the enthusiastic Shakspearean commentator and critic; and "Cruickshank" was the immortal George Cruickshank, the most flourishing engraver of the day, who, with his ultra-temperance predilections, must have been horrified at seeing what M. Busquet afterwards notices—"the most exquisite wines flowing in rivers." At all events, M. Busquet seems to have enjoyed himself and to have warmly recorded his enjoyment. From the Savage banquet he went to the Arundel Club, "a circle which gives on the Thames;" and there he saw "early day rising over St. Paul's, while the night still darkened with its shadow the proud palace of the Parliament, which, as beacons the seat of the maritime nation par excellence, bathes its feet in the water, its element and its power." Pretty, isn't it? It's a lucky thing that, looking at the component parts of the Thames about Westminster-bridge, the dwellers in the "Palace of the Parliament" don't bathe their feet in the water!

Once start a telling grievance, and you will have no lack of persons to grease your wheels. Here, for instance, is the "Great Press Scandal," which means that a penny-a-liner imposes upon the refreshment contractors at the Exhibition and feasts himself and his "pals" at their expense. Exceedingly disgraceful conduct, as everybody will readily admit; but exceptional, thank God! though certain journals and dreary gossips immediately proclaim that the whole press, from the leader-writers in the *Times* to the reporters on the smallest local journal are to be bought and sold like sheep. I have before me the letter of a "London Correspondent" to an Irish newspaper, in which a man is stated to have given a favourable criticism on certain jewellery; when, "penetrated with gratitude," Messrs. Hunt and Roskell "presented the fellow with a very handsome article of plate, with the beauty of which he appeared to be particularly struck." Is not this a palpable falsehood on the face of it? There is a constant outcry that the notices of the literary and theatrical critics of the principal journals are biased by the personal acquaintance of the writers with the authors and actors advertised upon; and this, to a certain extent, is true; but it is unavoidable. The critics of such journals are selected for their special knowledge of the subjects on which they are to write; their researches on these subjects have thrown them into the company of the men who "profess" them. They are members of the same clubs, sets, social circles, and it is impossible for any man to divide himself from himself, his writing "him" from his social "him," and to set aside all personal consideration for the author while treating of the subject. And yet I know more than one theatrical or literary critic who ventures to speak his mind boldly, and more than that, be respected by the person of whose acting or authorship he is treating—even though he speak not in complimentary terms. To suppose that actual tangible pecuniary influence is exercised over such critics is preposterous—as preposterous as to think that any respectable newspaper reporter could be bought by the gratuitous offer of a dinner from a traitor.

A post-mortem examination of the remains of the late Earl Canning proved that the disease of which the lamented statesman died was abscess of the loins, a result unexpected, I believe, even by the eminent medical men whom he had consulted. The bulk of his property goes to Mr. Herbert De Burgh, second son of the Marquis Clanricarde.

It is pleasant to think that in her *specialité*, live stock and agricultural implements, England will this year be well represented to her foreign visitors. Setting aside for the present the show of the Agricultural Society (of which more next week), there is at the Agricultural Hall, Islington, a splendid show of dogs. There is a noble pack of forty foxhounds belonging to the Duke of Beaufort, and "with one voice the forty" make the building resound. There are dogs of every description, and one noble bloodhound who might have stood to Snickers for a model.

THE THEATRICAL LOUNGER.

Messrs. Webster and Boucicault are now at open war, and both are relying on "The Colleen Bawn" as their attraction; the former at the ADELPHI, where Mr. Charles Verner, a provincial actor of repute, plays the hero; the latter at DRURY LANE, where the author-actor sustains his old character, and where the success has been immense.

A new comedy, by Mr. Watts Phillips, has been produced at the ST. JAMES'S with great success. The plot turns upon the persecution of a lady by a scoundrel who has obtained and kept compromising letters written by her in early days. On the possession of these he grounds a claim for the lady's hand, and on her refusal threatens to challenge and kill the man whom she really loves. The design is frustrated by an old General, uncle of the lover, who has been foolishly ridiculed by the lady, but who forgives her and aids her of her persecutor by killing him. The plot is not very new, but the piece is well put together, the dialogue is crisp and sparkling, and the acting of Mr. Vining, Miss Herbert, and Mr. Belmore is very good and effective.

M. Fechter is making occasional trips to the principal provincial towns, looking out for promising recruits for his Lyceum company. When the list of that company is published it will be found to contain two or three names not merely of good but of first-rate metropolitan reputation, whose coalition with M. Fechter is little expected.

Rumours regarding coming theatrical changes are still current. Among them are Mr. Webster's proximate retirement; Mr. Wigan's occupancy of the PRINCESS'S; and a division of the company at the STRAND, some of whom—namely Mr. Rogers and Miss Marie Wilton—it is said, are, with the aid of Miss Oliver, about to establish themselves at the ROYALTY.

THE LADY GODIVA PROCESSION.—After an interval of eleven years, the Lady Godiva's ride through Coventry was revived on Monday amid great pomp and ceremony, and attracted an immense influx of visitors. The procession formed near the entrance to St. Mary's Hall, and from that point proceeded through the principal streets of the city. Lady Godiva was represented by M^{me}. Letitia. The lady was dressed in silk dressings, with a white satin petticoat fastened at the hips and reaching to within a few inches of the knees, the petticoat being profusely embroidered with silver lace. On her head she wore a countess's coronet set with brilliants, from which flowed a long white gossamer-lace veil, enveloping the whole of her person except the face and bosom; her hair was loose, and fell in large masses over her shoulders, and on her bosom she wore a large brooch in the shape of a star, composed of brilliants. She rode a beautiful milk-white steed, adorned with the housings were large stars formed of brilliants, the other part of the trappings being similarly adorned. On each side rode a very handsome boy habited as a page, and two little girls in light blue satin dresses and hats with white plumes. After the lady came other children followers; then Leofric, Earl of Mercia, banners, pages, followers, &c. So great was the pressure of the crowd around her Ladyship's paltry that it required the services of a body of strong men armed with stout cudgels to clear the way.

ACCIDENT AT HUNGERFORD MARKET.—Accidents, like misfortunes, never come singly. Before the disaster to the Metropolitan Railway has been repaired, another has occurred to the Charing-cross Railway, which, though not so extensive in itself, has been more fatal to life. While some workmen were removing some buildings in the Hungerford Market, a portion of the central hall, lately used as a music-room, gave way, and buried beneath the ruins three men and a boy. One of the men was quite dead when taken out; and, though the others were taken out alive, the injuries they received were so frightful that little or no hope is entertained of their recovery.

THE SPECIAL EXHIBITION AT SOUTH KENSINGTON MUSEUM.

THE MINIATURES.

We have already noticed in general terms the collection of works of art lent for exhibition by various private contributors (see No. 375), which have been brought together as a sort of supplement to the ordinary exhibition of the South Kensington Museum, illustrating more fully and completely than has ever been done before the whole subject of ornamental art from antique to modern times. The miniature portraits were not at that time arranged and named; but the visitor will now find this remarkable collection of contemporary portraits a subject of the greatest interest, as the names of all the famous persons represented have been appended to the pictures, with the dates and the names of the painters, besides the name of the contributor from whose collection they come. Unfortunately it has not been practicable to make an historical arrangement of the portraits, in consequence of their being framed together in the different collections to which they belong. But in some instances this little incongruity is obviated by such superb collections as those of the Duke of Buccleuch, where the miniatures of Henry VIII. and the celebrities of his time, painted chiefly by Holbein and Hilliard, form a complete historical gallery; and in the same way those of the time of the Commonwealth, with Oliver Cromwell in the centre, painted by Samuel Cooper and Thomas Flatman, bring before us, in the most lifelike manner, the great men of that time. And notwithstanding the smallness of these pictures, the majority being no larger than the palm of the hand and many much smaller, such is the wonderful fineness of line and delicate modelling of the features, especially in Holbein's work, that we feel, after seeing them, to have had a closer view and more intimate acquaintance with the famous characters of times gone by than large portraits ever afford. As examples of painting, also, many are very beautiful, far surpassing any modern works in the truth and masterly style of the drawing, and in the great point of portraiture—seizing the characteristic expression, and showing us, as Walter Scott said, "how our ancestors looked, moved, and dressed." Of course, the use of ivory in place of the panel or cardboard employed by the old school enabled the more recent painters to obtain a certain agreeable flesh-tint and some niceties of artistic colour which the dryer method could not attain; but with this luxury of the art crept in the serious errors of giving the same complexion to all, and of indulging in what the artist fancied as fine colour. For this reason we find in all the old miniatures a truth and unaffected style often lost by the miniature-painters and enamellers of the latter part of the seventeenth century and the eighteenth century; down, in fact, to the present day. In minute painting of the dress to the smallest thread of pattern, and in jewelled ornaments, the old masters of miniature have not been approached by any of their successors in the art with all their appliances of modern invention, and no tinted photograph can for a moment be compared with some of these exquisite works of Holbein, Hilliard, Cooper, and Oliver.

The collection lent by the Duke of Buccleuch is perhaps the most important, and at the same time the most numerous, though his Grace's cabinet still contains many more which are not shown here. These miniatures are hung in three or four large frames against the wall, and are thus easily found, as most of the others are in the glass cases. The most noticeable set is that containing the portraits of Henry VII. and Henry VIII., by Holbein, two small circular miniatures very highly finished, and those of Queen Elizabeth when Princess, and Prince Edward, afterwards Edward VI. There is also one of Elizabeth when Queen. All of these are by Hilliard, and in perfect preservation. There is also a portrait of Mary Queen of Scots, not remarkable for beauty; and the same case contains a curious cameo in onyx representing Mary Queen of Scots and Darnley, the one head being cut in relief upon the other. As so much doubt exists as to the portraits of Mary, we should point out two which are lent by Lady Willoughby d'Eresby. One of these is an enamel, and though it was presented with the lock of her hair appended, by Lord Belhaven to the Countess of Perth, yet it is evidently a fancy portrait representing her with a dollish and pretty face. The other is apparently a more genuine portrait; but, though very carefully and curiously finished in the details of dress and the interior, for it is a small full-length, yet the face does not give the idea of being the work of a superior artist, nor of being painted from the life. Of the other Queen Mary, commonly distinguished as "Bloody Queen Mary," there is a very remarkable miniature in oil, painted by Sir Antonio More, which will be found with Mr. Addington's contribution, and lately belonged to the Uzielli Collection. Here, also, is an admirable miniature of Queen Elizabeth by Hilliard, representing her superbly attired in gorgeous jewelled robes and high ruff, with her hair apparently dressed with gold thread intertwined, a fashion more than once introduced, and borrowed originally from the Romans, who also powdered the hair with gold. Both Holbein and Hilliard, it will be remarked, used gold freely in their dress and ornaments; both painted commonly sky-blue or green backgrounds; and when they signed their pictures it was in the smallest gold letters, most beautifully written with the brush. In an exquisite work of Holbein—a small circular miniature of Katherine Duchess of Suffolk—shown in Lady Willoughby d'Eresby's collection, the signature is "H. Holbein, fecit," not Holbein.

Returning to the Duke of Buccleuch's collection, the centre group of miniatures of the Holbein period is preserved in the old ebony frame which was probably made to suit the taste of Horace Walpole, from whose famous cabinet at Strawberry-hill they came into the possession of the Duke, and enriched a collection already almost unique with the family treasures in portraiture of the Dukes of Montagu and the ancient dukedom of Monmouth. It is interesting to compare these works with others, such as the two rare miniatures of Henry VIII. and Anne of Cleves, in the Meyrick Collection, but not yet exhibited here, and some which are, such as the miniatures of Jane Seymour and Catherine Parr, evidently the work of Holbein, which are lent by Mr. J. C. Dent; and two similar pictures belonging to different owners, which also could be by no other hand than Holbein's—portraits of Thomas Cromwell, and the Earl of Essex, the one belonging to Lady Willoughby d'Eresby, the other to Mr. S. Addington. These, beyond their excellence as works of art, serve to confirm the character which Holbein earned for extraordinary industry and activity; for at the time he was painting these exquisite little gems he was doing those unrivalled chalk drawings which form the Holbein collection of the Queen, and many other important works in oil. There is also exhibited a larger portrait by Holbein, in oil, of Henry VIII., belonging to the Norfolk family, which is admirable as a portrait, and finished as to the splendid dress with wonderful minuteness. This represents the King at his fattest point, with very scanty beard and eyebrows, and it is a perfect study of the man. A portrait of the fourth Duke of Norfolk, who was beheaded for high treason by Queen Elizabeth, in 1572, dressed in black velvet, with cap and feather, and chain of gold enamelled, is a perfect little gem of the art, and must be the work of Holbein, although that famous painter died eighteen years before the execution of the Duke. It will be remembered also that Holbein was invited by the Earl of Arundel, and brought letters of introduction from his friend Erasmus to Sir Thomas More, and thus these miniatures were probably some of his first works, and have remained in the hands of his early patrons ever since. Next in interest as works of art, and even more interesting historically, are the Duke of Buccleuch's miniatures of the times of Charles I. and II., and the Commonwealth. Here the prominent portrait is that of Oliver Cromwell, by Samuel Cooper, a fine miniature in oil. Near him are John Milton, when a youth, John Selden, Sir Harry Vane, of whom Cromwell said, "The Lord deliver me from Sir Harry Vane," Abraham Cowley, the poet, and Algernon Sydney—all by Thomas Flatman. Then there are Pepys, of Diary fame, and Samuel Butler, looking the very picture of the writer of "Hudibras," Admiral Penn, and Sir John Suckling, the gentle poet—all by Cooper. A most interesting miniature of this period is exhibited by Lady Adine Cowper; it is of Sir Philip Sidney, the author of "Arcadia"; the portrait is by Isaac Oliver, and represents Queen Elizabeth's great cavalry general in a complete suit of splendid armour clad with gold, his page holding his horse in the back-

ground. This work has suffered from being painted in distemper, though very minutely finished for this method of painting. A better example of Isaac Oliver is a small portrait of the famous Dr. Don, in Mr. Addington's collection. Several other beautiful works of Cooper will be found, particularly a portrait of Richard Cromwell, signed and dated 1659, which was long in the possession of the late Lord Northwick; a small three-quarter head of the Earl of Pembroke of the highest artistic merit; Sir E. Montagu, High-Admiral in 1660; and a remarkable portrait of Charles II., oddly miscalled James II., from the Duke of Hamilton's cabinet. A most interesting relic, too, is Cooper's pocket-book, with several unfinished miniatures, which is exhibited by Mr. E. H. Lawrence.

As unique examples of the art of miniature, and for the great interest which attaches to them as portraits, should be noticed Mr. H. Danby Seymour's Sir Francis Drake, the famous hero of the English navy, a remarkably characteristic head with short-cropped stiff red hair and scanty beard, looking "as hard as nails" and brave as a lion. This, though not bearing the painter's name, is, we imagine, by Hilliard. The portrait of Inigo Jones, by Cooper, is also very fine, and belongs to Mr. H. D. Seymour. In Mr. Addington's small but choice collection there is a miniature of Shakspeare, which is well known as the Somerville portrait, from having belonged to the poet of that name, and been handed down in the family for some generations. The peculiarity of this portrait is that, while it resembles the well-known head of Shakspeare, it differs from all portraits in having a light tuft of hair on the front of the head, and in the hair and beard being light auburn. The colour may have changed, possibly; but the baldness not being so complete as in the Stratford bust and the Chandos portrait, throws some doubt upon the authenticity of the portrait, although it is evidently by Hilliard, the fashionable painter of the day; and it is not impossible the great man may have sat to him. Of Ben Jonson there is a miniature in oil, belonging to Lord Derby, who contributes a portrait of Andrew Marvel, by Vandeyck; one of Tintoretto, the painter, by himself; the Countess of Pembroke, by Zucchero; and John Law, the concoctor of the great Mississippi bubble, by Coater.

In the Duke of Hamilton's collection there are several very beautiful and rare miniatures of almost every period. We particularly noticed one of James, third Marquis of Hamilton, created first Duke in 1643, and afterwards doomed to be beheaded, after the Battle of Preston, in 1649. This is a fine work by Vandeyck. James I., by Hilliard, and Sir John Maynard, one of the prosecutors of Earl Strafford and Laud, are both fine specimens; the latter is especially remarkable for high finish; it is by Hoskins, and dated 1659. The set of six small whole-lengths in oil of Kings and Queens of France, by Janet, are also admirable; minutely touched, yet with all the effect of life-size portraits.

It would take much more space, however, to mention all the remarkable miniatures that are here collected, as we have only endeavoured to point out the more choice examples, and some of these have no doubt escaped notice. The exhibition should be seen, as being by far the most complete ever brought together, and illustrating the whole progress of miniature-painting from the time of Holbein. One celebrated collection, that of the Duke of Portland, is conspicuously absent, though some few larger works have been lent by his Grace. It is to be regretted that this collection, which was mainly formed by George Vertue, for the Earl of Oxford, and for which he made a catalogue raisonné in 1742-3, is not exhibited. It was included in the Art-Treasures Exhibition at Manchester, where it created the greatest interest, and but for an unfortunate circumstance, which naturally rendered the Duke more than ordinarily cautious for the safety of his treasures, would no doubt have been lent to the South Kensington authorities. The circumstance to which we allude, however, is due to the managers of the Manchester Exhibition to say, occurred some two years after the close of that exhibition, and had nothing whatever to do with that exhibition, from which the Duke of Portland's miniatures were returned in perfect safety. However, it may be affirmed that this exhibition of miniatures is by far the most important ever seen; and though some of the examples might have been multiplied, yet every master and every style is very completely illustrated.

"GALILEO BEFORE THE INQUISITION."

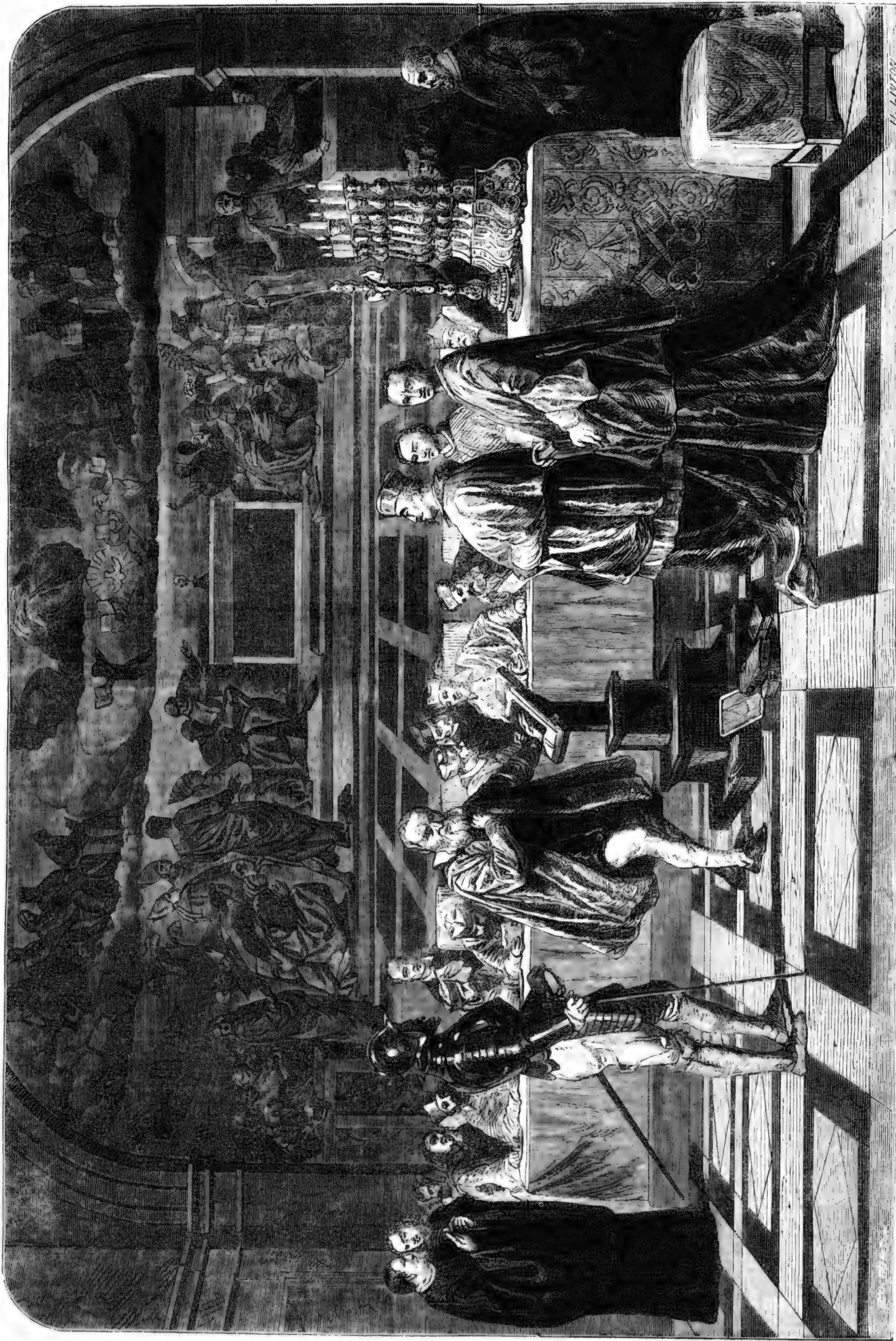
THE picture from which our Engraving is taken was a prominent one in the exhibition of the Boulevard Italien, and gained the large degree of popularity which every historical painting embracing a well-known story is certain to secure, if its treatment be striking and characteristic. Who does not feel interested in that great Italian astronomer, who may be said to have been the founder of experimental science, and at twenty-five years old became the mathematical professor at Pisa, whence, in 1592, he removed to Padua? From his first important discovery of the vibration of the pendulum, Galileo was destined to a career which should benefit mankind, even though it might involve present toil and suffering.

Having invented the first rude and elementary thermometer, with which he carried on his experiments, he afterwards (in 1609) turned his attention to the perfection of that wonderful glass which he heard had been invented by Jansen for rendering remote objects visible and succeeded in constructing the Galilean telescope. The first instrument which the philosopher completed was presented to the Doge of Venice, who confirmed his professorship at Padua for life, with the welcome addition of a large salary. By the telescope he discovered many of those astronomical phenomena which had before been hidden from observation. But the great primary truth which was ultimately to be established, and which he was the first to declare, gave offence to the "Holy Office," as the blood council of the Inquisition was profanely called, and he was at once cited to Rome there to deny the heretical assertion that not the earth but the sun was the centre of the solar system. This opinion had been published at Florence in 1632, in his "Dialogues on the Ptolemaic and Copernican Systems of the World;" and when he was summoned to appear before his accusers, the book was ordered to be publicly burnt, while he himself was ordered to be imprisoned, to make a recantation of his errors, and to recite the Seven Penitential Psalms once a week—a strange mockery, when it is considered with what glowing piety the Royal Palmist himself considers the heavens and all the starry host, and dwells with solemn inquiring upon their mysteries not yet revealed to mankind.

It has even, in later times, been denied that this recantation was required, or that he was summoned before the "Holy Office" for this cause; but the story has strong grounds for popular belief, and has assumed historical importance not only from the distinct and reliable records of the facts, but from the practices of that same inquisitorial party both at that period and in later times. It may be lamented that Galileo did not suffer martyrdom for the sake of science; but he chose rather to submit to the cruel coercion of his persecutors, whose bigotry prescribed for him a form of abjuration in which he said, "With a sincere heart and unfeigned faith I abjure, curse, and detest the said errors and heresies (viz., that the earth moves round the sun, &c.). I swear that, for the future, I will never say or assert anything, verbally or in writing, which may give rise to a similar suspicion against me." A resolution which he was probably careful to observe, since unalterable Papacy—whether it be strong in the terrorism of an Inquisition or weak in the ill-enacted solemnity of a Japanese martyrdom—is sure to seek occasion for stifling all inquiry which shall discover truth at the expense of its own overweening power. It must be acknowledged that the conscience of Galileo was easily satisfied with the reflection that this was an enforced recantation, for it is said that, on rising from his knees, he whispered to a friend, "It moves, for all that!" (*E pur si muove*). By these means he obtained his liberty, however, and retired to his house, near Florence, where he continued his observations till he became blind. He died near the same city, in 1642.

His son, Vincenzo Galilei, was the first who applied the pendulum to clockwork.

There has lately been an extraordinary passage of Russians through Berlin, on the way, most of them, to the London exhibition, before paying the usual latter-summer visit to the sea-side or to mineral springs.

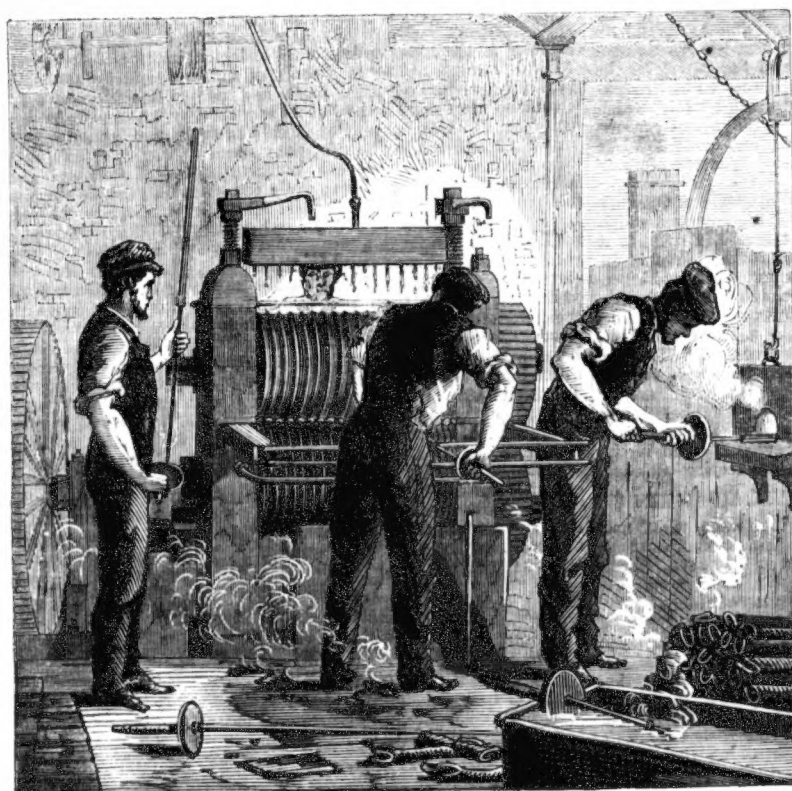


EXAMINATION OF GALILEO BEFORE THE ROMAN INQUISITION.—(FROM THE PICTURE BY ROBERT FLEURY.)

THE WORKSHOPS OF ENGLAND.—No. VIII. MR. CHARLES REEVES'S IMPLEMENTS OF WAR MANUFACTORY, TOLEDO WORKS, BIRMINGHAM.

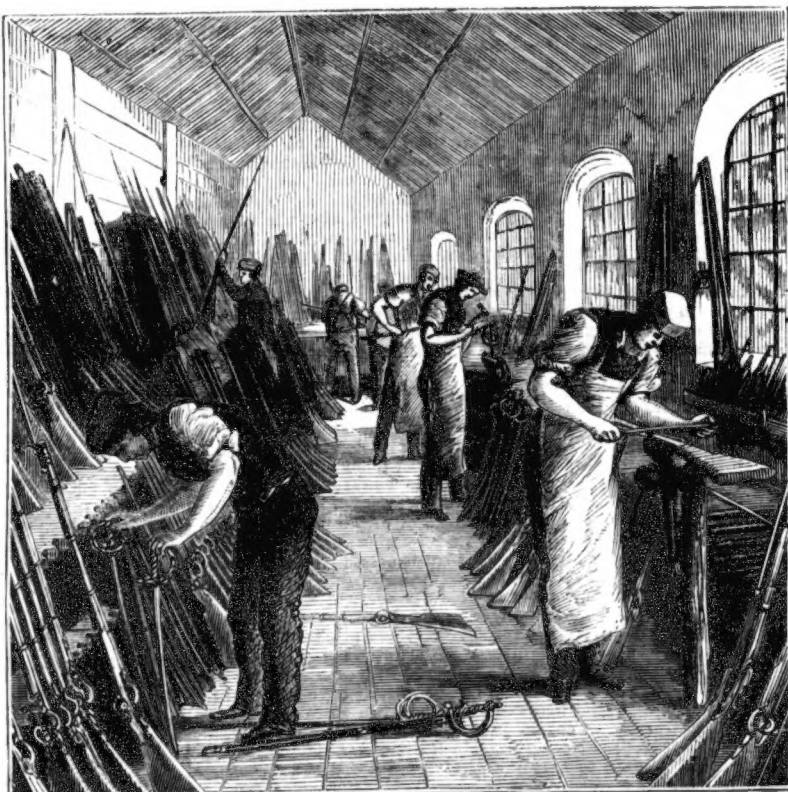


SWORD-BLADE, BAYONET, SWORD-BAYONET, AND MATCHETT GRINDING MILL.

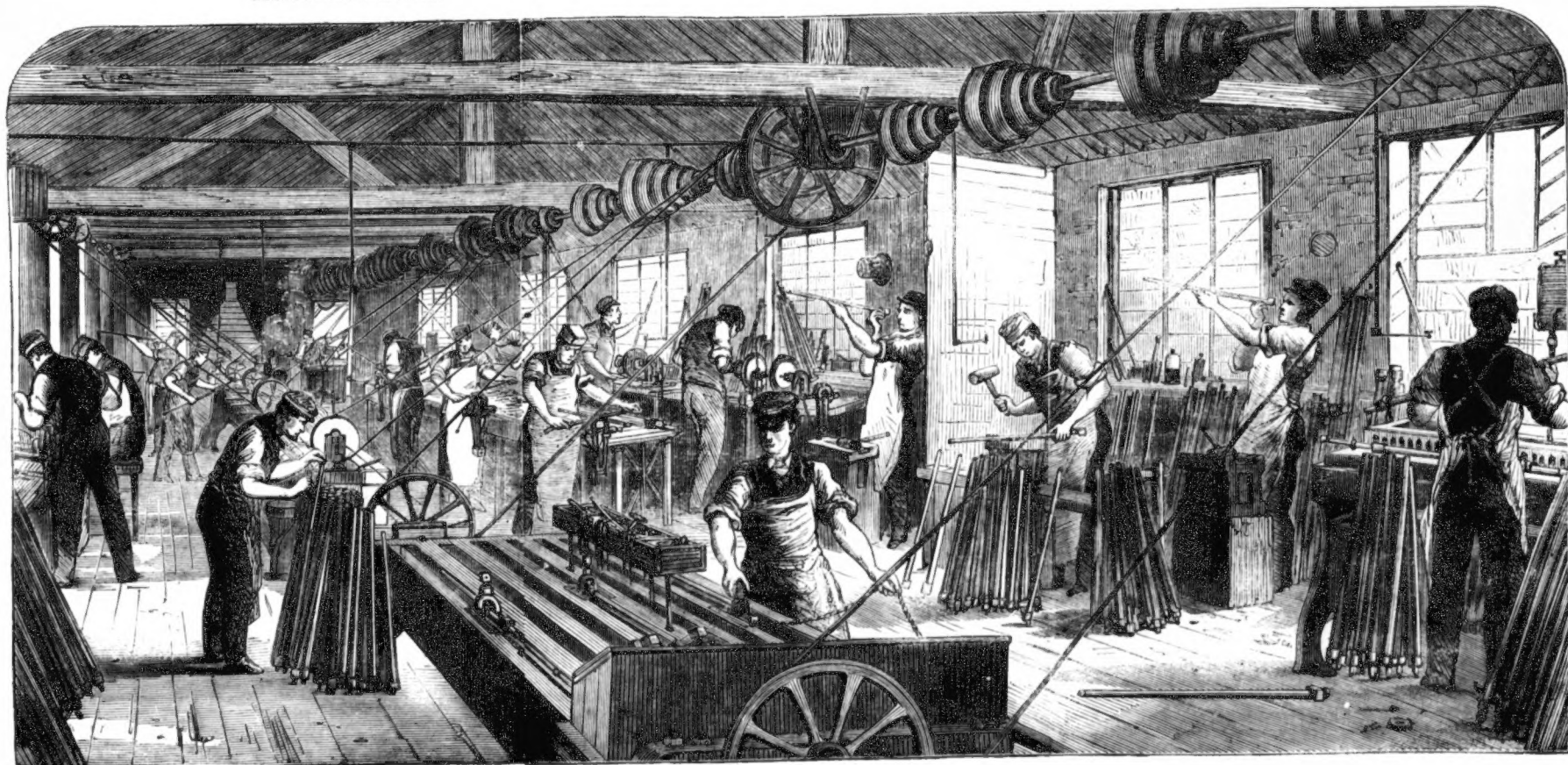


GUN-BARREL ROLLING.

"THRICE is he armed who hath his quarrel just;" and at least four times armed is he who, having no quarrel at all, and intending to have none, is yet prepared honestly to hold his own, keeping his dogs of war well trained and sharp of tooth, yet restrained by the leash of goodwill and amicably muzzled. This sentiment, which, but for the obvious advantage of the slight detour necessary to the accomplishment of walking through an opening paragraph, might have been expressed by the now popular proverb "Defence, not Defiance,"—this sentiment, I say, without further parenthesis, leads me at once to my inspection of the process of cutting some of those said teeth, and, by an almost inevitable attraction, back to Birmingham, where I am standing at the door of the Toledo Works of



MOUNTING AND FINISHING SWORDS AND RIFLES.



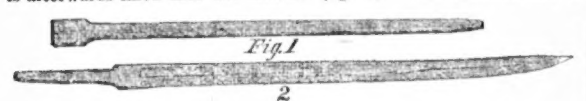
BARREL-BORING, STRAIGHTENING, TURNING, AND POLISHING SHOP.

Mr. Charles Reeves, manufacturer of smallarms to the trade and her Majesty's War Department.

Through this entrance, and up a flight of stairs, I reach the counting-house, and am at once placed under the guidance of the manager of the works, who conducts me by two or three warehouses where rifles and muskets stand in solid squares, as though upheld by ghostly infantry "grounding arms," into a series of somewhat narrow and, truth to tell, rather disorderly-looking yards, where iron in rusty piles, and scraps of metal in broken

heaps, bespeak the presence both of raw material and refuse. Being anxious to begin with the incisors, I learn that the trade of Mr. Reeves includes almost everything which can in any shape be used for warlike purposes—that is to say, swords, cutlasses, bayonets, rapiers, boarding-pikes, hatchets, "matchets," bayonets, tomahawks, scalping-knives, Malay creeses, and half a score other weapons whose names and purposes are more or less known. The staple manufactures in this branch, however, are the various descriptions of swords, bayonets, and "matchets," the latter being a sort of cross between a gigantic carving-knife and almost straight broad cutlass, fitted with a short handle, like that of a dinner-knife, and used by the native African and other tribes for chopping the sugar-cane, cutting through the jungle on their journeys, or for less amicable purposes (see Diagram). So great is the demand for these weapons that large quantities at a time are ordered to be delivered, afterwards to be bartered with natives for palm oil and other products. Sixteen hundred dozen are at the present writing being packed for Africa, and it is noticeable that many of the handles are so small as to be entirely covered by an ordinary British fist, since they are intended only for the slender fingers of wiry aborigines.

The steel from which the swords are made is supplied (by Mr. John Sanderson, of Sheffield) in long pieces somewhat tapering at each end and having a square portion in the middle, which, being cut through, leaves material for two blades, the bisection of the square leaving a shoulder at one end to receive the iron "tang" by which the blade is afterwards fixed into the handle (fig. 1). The manufacture of



these blades is almost entirely effected by the forgers, who hammer them into the required shape upon the anvil, a mould running down the centre of which secures the hollow which in swords extends for about two-thirds of the length from hilt to point. In a little street of smithies the musical clink is being sounded by a score of stalwart arms, either forging the rough steel into form or hammering the formed blade into perfect shape and symmetry, an operation which requires it to be kept at a certain heat lest the embryo blade should be injured in the process. Once perfected as to proportion, the hardening commences, and the blade is thrust backward and forward into the furnace until it has acquired a proper and uniform heat, at which point it is removed and instantly plunged into cold water. This process, which has obviously suggested the Turkish bath, renders it hard indeed, but at the same time so extremely brittle that I whisperingly suggested the propriety of contracting to supply our enemies with weapons and neglecting to carry them beyond that particular stage of preparation when they may be snapped with the fingers. Carefully supported, however, the blade is again subjected to the fiery ordeal until it attains a slaty-blue colour and a beautiful and elastic temper, which has been partially secured by the previous hammering. By the process of forging it has become about six inches longer than the pristine steel shape, and by the tempering it has attained a springy strength which enables it to be bent in a curve sufficient to bring the hand five inches nearer the point (see fig. 2).

Many of the best bayonets are forged in the same way as the swordblades, and, as in almost every manufacturing process human intelligence has an unmistakable advantage over mere mechanical force, these possess some superior qualities. The greater number of bayonets, however, are made, by peculiar machinery patented by Mr. Reeves, from a square bar of drawn steel five inches and a half long by nine-sixteenths square (fig. 1). This bar is passed between a series of about sixteen pairs of rollers, which are worked by steam power, and so grooved as gradually to mould the blade to the requisite shape (fig. 2). Sixteen times the short steel bar undergoes the merciless pressure of a progressively-increased power until its five and a half inches of length is increased to twenty-six inches, when some portions are cut off from the point to leave it the regulation length (fig. 3). During the late Russian war this machinery enabled Mr. Reeves to supply the Government with almost incredible numbers of these weapons.

The matchets, which are made from bevel-edged steel passed twice through the rollers, are cut into the requisite shape by means of powerful shears.

These operations are conducted in a large shed, where the rollers stand like awful combinations of infernal machines and patent mangles; where a boding and vengeful tilt-hammer, worked by steam, is tended by a man, who sits like a calm fate beside its crushing bulk and supplies it with fresh victims; where the awful boom seems to shatter the very atmosphere, and deafness reigns triumphant. In obedience to a signal, however, the monster is suddenly stopped, and I am enabled to hear that the great two-pot furnace on my left is used for making the steel from those long laths of bevel-edged iron stacked against the wall; that the furnace is constructed with wide flues on each side and under the bottom, while the firegrate occupies the centre between the two pots; that the pots themselves are some four feet deep and two feet and a half wide, are air-tight, contain layers of charcoal and iron covered with loam sand, will remain seven days and nights in the furnace until their contents are white hot, and that at the end of the time the iron will have been converted into steel of a slaty-blue colour. The inexorable hammer resuming its work at this point, I follow the bayonet to its completion, and once more visit the forges to witness the "shutting on," or welding the blade to a piece of iron which ultimately forms the socket by which the bayonet itself is fixed on to the barrel of the rifle or musket.

There is yet another operation before the blades are taken to the finishing-shop, one of the most important, too, since it is no other than grinding, a process which secures an exact and uniform thickness, and increases their elasticity.

The diagrams will well serve to illustrate the progress of the blades from the first rude form in a steel bar to their final grace of form and polished keenness, but it would be difficult, perhaps, by words or picture to convey an adequate impression of the grinding-shop.

I am standing at the open end of a long, vast, and gloomy shed-like building, supported by iron pillars. On each side along the entire length a series of enormous grindstones spin round amidst sand and water and the mud from both. Seated astride the bodies of wooden horses, whose heads seem to have been transformed into these wheels, the grinders seize upon the blades, and each fearless rider, rising in his stirrups—or, what looks much the same, standing tiptoe till he no longer touches his saddle—throws himself forward, and presses the sword, matchet, or bayonet on the wheel, at the same time guiding it deftly with his left hand till its whole surface has been smoothly ground.

Along the whole line of whirling stones the sparks fly a lurid red; and as the grinders, with squared elbow, seem to curb the struggling and impetuous wheels, I think of the wild dreams of Callot or Doré,

and fancy a double rank of riders bestriding horses strangely foaled by some hideous nightmare.

After polishing, which is completed by wooden wheels which bear a coating of leather covered with emery, the swords and matchets go to receive handles, and the bayonets locking-rings. The handles of swords are made of walnut-wood covered with the skin of the dogfish, while the hilt and guard are formed from a plain flat sheet of steel, in shape not unlike one side of a pair of bellows. This is cut into the requisite pattern (from a model) in the vice, and the sheet being bent to the required shape, is afterwards filed.

The solid socket of the bayonet is hammered into form and afterwards stamped into shape with the rim complete, from which process it is conveyed to a shop where it is drilled by steam power. It then only remains to secure a smooth surface by means of a revolving barrel containing an instrument with a number of flanged blades, against which the socket of the bayonet is pressed. It is not a little remarkable to see the solid steel pared and shaved like wax, and no less wonderful to notice the simple machinery by which it is accomplished. The locking-rings are stamped out by a lever and die, pierced by a punch, and afterwards "bored," "faced," and their shapes secured by a triple circular saw worked by a lathe.

The most important manufacture in the Toledo Works, however, is assuredly rifles, and, with the intention of following it through its principal processes, I return to the vicinity of the still inveterate hammer, where I am shown a rudimentary barrel in the shape of a slab of best wrought iron (the iron used for this purpose being that which is made by the celebrated firm of Marshall and Mills), twelve inches long, and weighing nine pounds and a quarter (fig. 1). This uninviting slab is heated in a furnace and roughly bent into the tubular shape (fig. 2) by means of my enemy, the tilt-hammer, after which it is once more placed in a furnace of an enormously high temperature, with a small trap-



opening. When sufficiently heated, the short rudimentary tube is taken out on a long, round iron rod, fitted with a handguard, and looking like a gigantic burlesque rapier. This rod approximates to the size of the intended bore of the barrel, and is inserted with the rough tube upon it between two steam-rollers, each of which is furnished with a series of corresponding grooves or cuts. The barrel, which is taken up at one end by a rod, is placed between the first pair of grooves, and as the rollers revolve is drawn out at the other side a long, hollow, welded tube. This much more graceful and better-formed tube is then consigned to another rod of smaller diameter and to a corresponding pair of grooves, until after the eighth repetition of the same process the barrel has attained its proper dimensions (fig. 3). The next operation, which is called "lumping," consists of welding a piece of wrought iron on to the breech-end of the barrel, for the purpose of forming the percussion-lump, and is succeeded by "rough-boring." This is accomplished by a long, sharp-ended "bit," which being placed in the end of the barrel revolves at the rate of perhaps a thousand turns a minute by means of a pulley and flywheel, while the barrel is pushed on by a lever, and kept cool by means of water thrown upon its surface.

The "setting" of the barrel is next effected by means of hammer and anvil, the "setting" meaning simply rectifying any bend which it may have received during the previous operation. I am not a little interested in the setting, since my first intimation of it on entering the shop is the sudden discovery of a number of workmen gazing resolutely at an opposite window through what look like attenuated telescopes. They are engaged, however, in one of the processes which require the greatest experience, since it would be difficult for anybody not well acquainted with the method to discover a trifling bias. The "spilling-up," or cutting the inside of the barrel to the proper bore, is similar to the "rough-boring," except that only one edge of the bit is allowed to operate, the others being sheathed by a half-cylinder of wood called a "spill," this ensures a smooth surface, and prepares for the "fine-boring," which is six times repeated, the final surface being ensured by keeping one edge of the "bit" perfectly smooth, by which means the particles of steel drop in a fine and almost soft powder.

The outside of the barrel is next turned in a long lathe, which not only reduces the roughness, but, by a beautiful arrangement of cutting tools, gives it the required substance, or "pattern," for a light or heavy rifle.

The grinding of the barrels is effected by means of stones larger than those used for the swordblades, but in a similar manner, and is preliminary to "fling," which carries the barrel to the shop where it is prepared for the lock.

These preparations consist of "chambering," or making the chamber which holds the pin; "breeching," or cutting the worm intended for the breechpin that helps to hold the barrel to the stock by means of a breech-nail; cutting out the little slice into which the "sight" is to be dovetailed; machining the lump, filing the tailpin, and making the square lump the proper shape for receiving the lock and stock.

I am not a little surprised to learn that every part of the lock is finished by hand, the cock being cut with a die worked with a heavy weight, and the smaller pieces being wrought with forge, hammer, and file.

The great art in lockmaking is to obtain a perfect spring, and those properly tempered are so elastic that although, when fitted in the lock the two sides are so close as almost to touch, they will, when released, spread to two inches below the edge of the lock-plate. The lock and barrel are now ready for the stock, which awaits them in another shop, where it has been sawn out of walnut-wood, and finished by carpenters' tools.

The barrel let into its groove, and the lock properly in its place, the stock is more perfectly shaped and rounded before the "screwing together," or the addition of the different parts of the "furniture"—heel-plate, trigger-plate and guard, trigger, nose-cap, rod, and bayonet. I am now told that the rifle is "finished," by which understanding completion, I am not quite prepared to learn that it is to be taken to pieces.

I suddenly remember, however, that it is not yet a rifle at all, inasmuch as the barrel has not been rifled. Everything is made perfect before this delicate operation is attempted, in order that no injury may be sustained by the barrel when the complete rifle is again put together. The process of rifling is similar to that of boring, except that a spiral cutter is substituted for the "bit." Previous to the reunion of the barrel, the whole work is polished and the stock stained and finished ready for completion.

The pistol-barrels undergo the same processes as that of the rifles, except that, after being drilled, they are "planed" by machines, which carry them along a sort of bed under tools that cut them perfectly smooth and accurately shape the octagonal barrels. These chisels move by means of screws over the entire surface as it is drawn backwards and forwards on the slide.

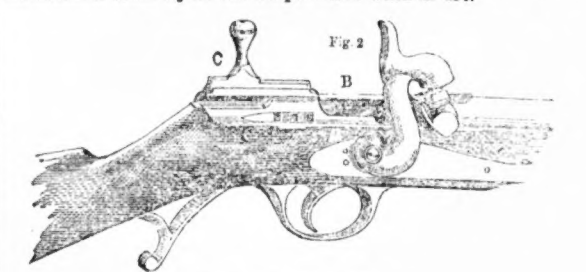
The revolver chambers are drilled out of solid iron by a drilling-machine or lathe, with a centrest and an eccentric motion, which causes each barrel of the chamber-nest to become the centre in succession, while by means of a slide the motion can be made to suit either a large or small chamber. The recesses communicating with the lock and trigger are cut by reversing the chamber in the eccentric "chuck" and using a different cutting tool, while another alteration effects the drilling of the nipple-poles.

In returning to the warehouses I discover that I have omitted (with no unpacific intention) inquiring after the scabbards of the "trusty blades" the progress of which I have been watching with so much interest. They are being made, however, close by, so that I speedily learn how the thin sheets of iron are marked to the pattern and cut into the required shape by shears—how they are bent at the vice round templates or mandrils, the edges having been beaten thin and flattened with a mallet—how, a shape having been slipped into

this rough metal sheath, the edges are lapped over at the vice and soldered at the forge, the perfect shape being afterwards obtained by means of the hammer; how it is fitted with the "bands," and the "drag" filed, supplied with a mouthpiece (not the present writer, but a metallic one of its own), polished; and finally lined with thin strips of deal or with solid leather.

Beside his extensive manufacture of rifles for the Government and the production (as licensee) of the Whitworth rifle, Mr. Reeves has introduced important inventions of his own, amongst the most prominent of which are the double-action revolver and his patent rifle. The former weapon is so constructed as to secure greater strength in that generally-overtried part of the revolver against which the back end of the chamber recoils. It fires five shots continuously, will fire under water, can be loaded with wonderful rapidity, and is provided with a safety-bolt which effectually prevents explosion by accident.

The patent rifle combines both the ordinary muzzle-loader and the breech-loader, has the great advantage of being an unjointed rifle, and can be loaded and fired nine times in a minute without difficulty. The last contemplated improvement is, I am informed, not yet completed, but it involves an entirely new principle in breech-loading which at the same time offers an effectual preventive to accidents, while the mechanism is so simple that nothing but gross carelessness could injure the weapon itself when in use.



THE BREECH OPEN.

The diagram may serve to more fully explain this beautiful weapon which is here represented with the breech open. The handle having been drawn from right to left (from A to B) and backward from B to C, the cartridge is introduced into the aperture, and pressed a little forward with the end of the thumb. The handle is then replaced from C to B, with the thick part of the palm of the hand; this brings it back to the top of the aperture, and it is thence moved quite into its place by drawing it firmly sideways from B to A, when the cap may be put on and the piece fired.

In the warehouses through which I pass on my way out stand weapons in every variety and with every degree of finish—from the splendid dress sword of the full-blown officer or the rapier of a courtier to the heavy cutlass of the sailor or the "matchet" of the African savage. Close to a stack of muskets sold by the dozen is a rifle whose exquisite finish and perfect appointment would command more pounds than would serve to buy weapons for a negro body guard. Of what may be effected in the way of beauty of finish in a plain and soldierlike rifle, the visitors to the Great Exhibition who have seen Mr. Reeves's Whitworth, long Enfield, and short Enfield will be able to judge; while the splendidly-chased revolver, with its gold arabesques and white steel barrel, displays the more ornamental features of the manufacture. Of this, however, a still better example is a magnificent sword with wonderful damascening on the blade and exquisite Italian work in oxidised silver ornamenting the gold ground of hilt, scabbard, and guard. Amongst the various specimens from the Toledo Works this seems to be the most elaborate; while, perhaps, the most curious is a marvellously elastic blade which coils itself in its serpentine sheath, and yet, on being withdrawn, leaps in the hand a straight and springy wand of glittering steel. The Toledo Works cover a large extent of ground. The machinery, of the most complicated and costly kind, is set in motion by steam-engines equal in power to 150 horses, and upwards of four hundred artisans are employed. It may be mentioned that Mr. Reeves is the Birmingham Vice-Consul for Brazil, and Captain of a Gunmakers' Company of Volunteers. The jury, class 8, in the exhibition of 1851, awarded to Mr. Reeves a prize medal for the beautiful collection of swords and other field weapons exhibited by him, and which, as mechanical and artistic productions, commanded universal admiration, and secured large orders from foreign Governments.

AN AWKWARD INTERVIEW.

ONE day last week, about eight o'clock in the evening, the family of Mr. George Corby, bookseller, of the Drapery, Northampton, were alarmed by a most extraordinary occurrence. Mr. Frederick Mead, a highly-respectable and intelligent working man, went into Mr. Corby's shop, and told him he wished to speak to him two minutes privately. Mr. Corby was busy at the time, and asked him to wait a short time. When Mr. Corby was at liberty he asked him if he wished to go into a private room, and he said it would be best. Mr. Mead looked pale and agitated, and it was inferred by Mr. Corby that he was in trouble, and wished to ask his advice. He was therefore shown into a private room by Mr. Corby, and the door was closed. A chair was placed for Mr. Mead, but he asked Mr. Corby to sit in that and took another which was between Mr. Corby and the door. Being seated, he said that what he was about to say must not be divulged to any one until after the appointed time. Mr. Corby told him that he might fully rely upon his secrecy. Mr. Mead replied that he believed he could do so, and it was for that reason he had come to him. He then said, "You may think, as my son tells me, that I am mad; but I am not mad. As true as you sit there, I have seen the living God. I have seen Jesus Christ, and talked with both." It now became apparent to Mr. Corby that his visitor was deranged. All the time he had been speaking he was feeling in his pockets as if searching for something. After a short pause, he continued, "I am inspired; I am to proclaim a new dispensation, and the regeneration of the world. Next Sunday night, at the conclusion of Divine service in All Saints' Church, I shall proclaim my mission." He then pulled out of his pocket a large knife, which fastened back with a spring, and, presenting the point to Mr. Corby's breast, said, "You must go down on your knees and swear to the living God that you will never divulge anything that I have said until the appointed time, or I will stab you to the heart!" Mr. Corby's first impulse was to seize the knife, but, remembering that his dangerous visitor was a tall powerful man, while he himself was but a middle-sized person of 9st., there was every probability that his attempt would fail, and the most serious consequences be the result. His next thought was to try to escape, but the door being shut, and he having to pass his excited companion, there was no hope that way. He saw, therefore, that his only chance was in appearing to coincide entirely with the view of his visitor. Mr. Corby therefore decided upon a conciliatory course. He said, "Well, Mr. Mead, I have known you for many years, and have always found you a most honourable and sincere man, and I am convinced that you would not tell me anything of this kind unless you believed it to be true. I am glad you have come to me, and I will help you in every way I can." They shook hands very warmly, and apparently all danger was past. Mr. Mead then went on to say that Mr. Corby must get some bills printed to announce his mission, and that one must be sent to every newspaper in England. Mr. Mead now put his left hand on Mr. Corby's shoulder, and held the knife up in his hand as if about to strike. He told him he must kneel, and take an oath which he would administer, or he would carry out his threat and stab him to the heart. Seeing that the only safe course was to conciliate him, Mr. Corby knelt on one knee in such a manner that he could spring aside instantly should it be necessary. Mr. Mead, standing over him with the knife upraised, proceeded to administer the oath, which is not suitable to be repeated in a newspaper. At the conclusion of the interview he said, "It is well; I will trust you." It became necessary now that some means should be adopted to secure him, as it was evident that it was most unsafe for him to be at large. Mr. Corby, therefore, told him that he could not stay there, as his customers were waiting to be served; but if he would come again in an hour's time the shop would be closed, and they would have the room to themselves to complete the arrangement. This he agreed to do, left the room, and passed quietly through the shop, out of the house. Mrs. Corby immediately went to the police-station, and in a few minutes Sergeant Cornwall was at Mr. Corby's shop. Having learnt the state of affairs, he got two other policemen, and they all three waited for Mr. Mead's arrival. The latter had not left the shop more than half an hour when he returned, and with great judgment and care was seized by Sergeant Cornwall round the arms from behind. He went quietly to the station-house, when the knife was found upon him. He was subsequently brought before the magistrates, and was sent to the Northampton Lunatic Asylum.

LAW AND CRIME.

To many of our readers the name of M^{me}. Rachel, alias Leveson, will not be unfamiliar. For some time past the name has appeared in various judicial proceedings. There was a M^{me}. Rachel who, when sued at the County Court for small sums due to tradesmen, has been known to defend upon the ground that the debt had been contracted by a M^{lle}. Rachel, her daughter, who carried on a curious business as an "enameller of ladies' faces," but who, when sued, was in a position to plead infancy. Then M^{lle}. Rachel, the infant, became insolvent, but was unable to obtain her release in consequence of her infancy, which was a bar to her making the assignment required to enable her to obtain the "benefit of the Act." Consequently the young lady was obliged to remain unwedded for several months, until the attainment of her majority. Times appear to have changed for the better with the family. The business stands at present as being carried on by Madame, not Mademoiselle. A place of business at the West End, and, it is said, a carriage and establishment, signalise the happy transfer of the "enamelling" business from Mademoiselle, so lately insolvent, to Madame, so recently her humble assistant. It is Madame who now appears as the directress of the concern, and it is Madame who sues recalcitrant debtors. Were Mademoiselle in this enviable position, perhaps hard-hearted creditors under the insolvency might still prosecute their claims, which such insolvency (under the old system) only postponed until the acquirement of assets sufficient for their liquidation. It was M^{me}. Rachel (alias Leveson) who appeared last week as plaintiff in an action against a navy Captain for a sum above nine hundred pounds, Madame's charge for "enamelling" the Captain's wife. We purposely refrain from giving the name of the defendant, for a reason which we beg to consider satisfactory. The lady was not a party to the suit. The allegations against her—whether intended to prejudice her credit, to show her under a ridiculous aspect, or simply to give her pain—appear to have been part and parcel of a plan by which this sum was endeavoured to be obtained from her under circumstances only legally short of attempted extortion, and of which plan the lady's submission to cross examination would, had it taken place, only been the culmination. We therefore claim to suppress this lady's name, just as our contemporaries, with far less just cause, habitually suppress the names of pettifogging attorneys against whom *ex parte* charges are brought before the Judges of malversations in practice. The circumstances of the great Rachel case appear to be as follow, according to Madame's own account, of which the reader may believe just as much as he may please. A lady of wealth and fashion had suffered from an abscess in her neck, the removal of which by the knife of a surgeon rendered it advisable that she should wear high dresses. The disorder and debility consequent upon its relief had moreover impaired her complexion. In this state of affairs the lady was attracted by one of M^{me}. Rachel's advertisements, promising youth and beauty by means of "magnetic rock, dew-water from Sahara, Circassian bloom, Arabian soaps, and alabaster liquid," rendering the complexion "beautiful beyond comparison," and announcing the charge for enamelling a lady—"160 guineas and upwards." The faded lady went to Madame about eight or ten times, was enamelled, and supplied with certain perfumes. Madame says that she was thereby made "beautiful for ever," and that after the process the patient attended a hunt ball in North Wales in the character of "Snow," attired in "white tulle, smothered with white feathers to represent a snowstorm." At this point the audience broke into a great burst of laughter. The idea of a married lady, with an enamelled skin, capering about among foxhunters in North Wales and trying to imitate a snowstorm, was far too much for the gravity of Westminster Hall. On cross-examination, M^{me}. Rachel described her system as—firstly, the removal of dirt from the system by "liquid herbs." This leaves the process as mysterious as ever. What is a liquid herb? Can it be sweetwort? The whole skin is then washed over with "liquid flowers," and the result is perpetual beauty. Madame admitted that the lady had offered her a handful of jewels, including a tiara of diamonds, as remuneration for her services; also, that afterwards she had refused £50 to compromise the action. There is, therefore, less reason for public lamentation that Madame's modest claim of £338 5s. was defeated upon a simple point of law by the lady's husband, who merely proved that he had never authorised his wife to incur the debt, whereupon the jury gave a verdict in his favour. The lady was not called.

Constance Wilson was tried for administering oil of vitriol to Sarah Cornell, with intent to murder. The suggestion was that the prisoner had substituted the poison for medicine dispensed by a chemist. There appeared no doubt that the vitriol was administered by the prisoner's hand, but the evidence failed to establish a wilful purpose on the part of the prisoner. A verdict of not guilty was there given; but the prisoner was immediately taken into custody on a charge of murder by poison committed some time previously, and which is to be supported by an examination of the body, exhumed for the purpose.

Some months since a Mrs. Wilson was tried on a charge of conspiracy for having endeavoured to introduce the child of another person into the family of her husband as her own. That charge broke down; but Mrs. Wilson was last week tried for bigamy, inasmuch as at the time of marrying her husband, a Captain Wilson, a former husband, named Gotobed, was still living. The defence set up was that the marriage with Gotobed was void, as he himself was then married to a wife then living in Canada. It was shown that Gotobed had represented this woman as his wife, and the presiding Judge, under the circumstances, admitted the mere fact of "habit and repute" as sufficient, without strict legal evidence of the marriage, to raise a doubt upon which the prisoner ought to be acquitted, which was done. The learned Judge refused to allow the expenses of the prosecution which had been instituted rather in the interests of certain members of Captain Wilson's family than in those of public justice.

A policeman charged a tradesman's wife with having assaulted him at four o'clock in the morning. She had been seen ringing at the door of a house, and on the policeman asking her why she did so she told him to mind his own business. He then seized

her, when, as he alleged, she pulled his whiskers and scratched his face. The facts proved to be that the defendant, who was in the habit of attending early market for her goods, had been accustomed to ring up a friend and neighbour in the same trade. This, it seems, was an interference with certain perquisites of the policeman, who would otherwise have received an occasional twopenny for doing the same. Hence the charge, which ended by the defendant being dismissed. The policeman was subsequently fined for his misconduct.

POLICE.

LET THE POOR THIEVES HAVE THEIR WATCHES!—John Clare and Mary Williams, fashionably attired, were placed at the bar charged with attempting to commit robbery at the exhibition.

John Thane, 10 X, said—I was on duty at the exhibition yesterday afternoon at a quarter to four when I saw the prisoners in the North Court. There was a piano being played, accompanied by a flute. I saw the female prisoner walk up by the side of a lady and stand close to the right of her. The man then placed himself behind the female prisoner, and I saw her place her hand in the lady's pocket. After that the female walked away followed by the man, who spoke to her. I asked the lady whether she had lost anything, when she replied she had not—that she had only got a handkerchief in her pocket. The prisoners then followed three ladies, and the female placed herself on the right of them, the man, as before, going behind her. The female then placed her hand in another lady's pocket, but got nothing, and left. I then followed and took them into custody, when the female dropped a pair of scissors used for cutting ladies' dresses. I found £4 in gold and silver upon the male prisoner and £2 6s. on the female, £2 of which she had in her hand, and I found a gold watch and chain on each of them.

Mr. Arnold: Were they wearing them?—Policeman: Yes. Mr. Arnold: Openly?—Policeman: Yes. Mr. Arnold: Why did you take them from them?—Policeman: We always take everything from them. Mr. Arnold: Do you take their hats, their mantles, and their boots?—Policeman: No. Mr. Arnold: Then why take anything else they wear? Have you any reason to believe they are stolen?—Policeman: I have not. Mr. Arnold: Give them their watches at once. This was accordingly done, and the prisoners, who are very expert old thieves, were remanded.

CAPTURE OF A BURGLAR.—George Stanley, thirty-six, of respectable appearance, who refused to give any account of himself, was charged before Mr. Elliott, for final examination, with having by skeleton keys entered the dwelling-house of Mr. Boulton, Crescent-place, Brighton, and stolen therefrom a valuable timepiece and other property.

On the evening of Monday week a police constable saw prisoner come out of the house of prosecutor with a large bundle in his possession. He asked him if he lived there, and he replied that he did, that he was a lodger, and that the landlord's name was Roberts. The constable, knowing that the latter part of his assertion was untrue told him he must return to the house with him when he said he could not open the door, as he thoughtlessly left the key inside. The constable then told him he must accompany him to the station, and when there the prisoner exclaimed, "You have got me to-rights, and I may as well give you up all I have got about me, for I know if I don't you will take them from me." He then gave up a "jemmy," a bunch of skeleton keys, one of which opened the front door, and other articles. It was subsequently found that he had broken a number of boxes and drawers with the jemmy, and that he had taken from them the property found on him. None of the detectives recognised the prisoner, though there could be no doubt, from the manner in which he committed the robbery, he is an expert burglar and robber. He was fully committed for trial.

CARRIAGE ROBBERY.—Charles Collins, a middle-aged man, was charged with stealing from the carriage of Mrs. Eliza Willis, of 4, Hill-street, Berkeley-square, a shawl of the value of £5.

William Hall, footman to Mr. Willis, said that, on the previous afternoon, he was with the carriage in Dover-street when he was informed that the prisoner had taken a shawl from the carriage. He pursued prisoner, who in his flight threw the shawl down an area. He caught the prisoner and brought him back, and then handed him over to a constable, who took him to the station.

George Cullen, in the service of Lord Stanley of Alderley, proved seeing the prisoner take the shawl from the carriage.—Mr. Tyrwhitt remanded the prisoner.

THE DIAMOND RING CASE.—It may be remembered that, on the 14th inst., Mr. Corrie gave judgment in a case in which the trustees of Mrs. Fleming, pawnbroker, St. Martin's-lane, appeared to answer a summons to show cause why a diamond ring which had been illegally pledged should not be given up to the owner, Mr. William Frederic Webb.

Mr. Corrie having ordered the ring to be given up, a claim was set up on the part of Mrs. Fleming for payment of the sum of £50 which had been advanced upon it; and, this claim being disallowed, the defendants demanded a case for the Court of Queen's Bench. Pending further proceedings the ring was given up, and a check for £50 was deposited in the hands of the magistrate by Mr. Webb to cover the amount in dispute with costs, in case of a decision in favour of the defendant.

Yesterday Mrs. Fleming's solicitor attended before Mr. Corrie, and stated that upon consideration it had been thought advisable to abandon the idea of proceeding upon a "case" to the Court of Queen's Bench. Defendant preferred to accept the magistrate's decision, and he therefore requested the check to be returned to Mr. Webb. It was handed to him accordingly.

MONEY OPERATIONS OF THE WEEK.

THE foreign demand for gold having wholly ceased for the present, and about £109,000 having been sent into the Bank of England, thereby increasing the total stock to £15,000,000. Home Securities have exhibited rather more firmness; but the amount of business done in them has not increased to any extent, hence the supply of stock which is still far in excess. Consols, for money, have realised 91½. Ditto, for account, 91½. Reduced and New Three per Cent. Consols, 81½. Ditto, for account, 81½. Bank Three per Cent. marked 81½ to 82.

Indian securities, &c., have continued very firm in price, and the public will buyers to come extent. India Five per Cent. have sold at 102½. Ditto Four per Cent. Debenture, 95½. The Five per Cent. India Paper has been 103½. Ditto, for money, 103½. Ditto, for account, 103½. Ditto, for money, 103½. Ditto, for account, 103½.

At the Bank of England the applications for money have been to the amount of £1,000,000. In the stock Exchange loan for a short period are offered at 2½ per cent, and in the open market—where the supply of capital is very large—the best commercial bills are readily done at 2½ to 2½ for 90 days. On the Continent very little change has taken place in the quotations.

Advices from the New York side that another issue of £2,000,000 Government notes will shortly take place, and that the supply of value in the banks was £7,000,000 and £11,500,000 on the 28th of June, 1862. The exchange being favourable, large quantities of bullion have been in progress of shipment to Europe. Gold had advanced to 7½ per cent premium.

At the New York side has been held in fair average request, and prices, almost generally, have ruled firm. Alliance have marked 4½; Bank of Egypt, 2½; Colonial, 4½; London and County, 3½; London and Westminster, 8½; Oriental, 1½; Ottoman, 2½; South Australia, 7½; Union of Australia, 4½; and Union of London, 2½. Colonial notes have been held in fair average request, and prices, almost generally, have ruled firm. Alliance have marked 4½; Bank of Egypt, 2½; Colonial, 4½; London and County, 3½; London and Westminster, 8½; Oriental, 1½; Ottoman, 2½; South Australia, 7½; Union of Australia, 4½; and Union of London, 2½.

METROPOLITAN MARKETS.

CORN EXCHANGE.—Only limited supplies of home-grown wheat have been on offer this week, and the demand for both red and white qualities has ruled steady, at a further improvement in the quotations of 1s. per quarter. A full average business has been passing in foreign wheat, and the prices have advanced 1s. to 2s. per quarter. Flouring cargoes of grain have commanded rather more money. No change has taken place in the value of any kind of barley. The corn of 1862 has, however, been somewhat restricted, and has moved off steadily, at full price. Good sound oats have maintained the previous values, but inferior kinds have ruled lower. Beans and peas have sold at extremely low rates, and good quality of flour has been sold at rather more money.

ENGLISH CURRENCY.—Wheat, Essex and Kent, red, 12s. to 13s.; ditto white, 14s. to 15s.; grinding barley, 2s. to 2½s.; ditto malt, 10s. to 11s.; malt, new, 6s. to 7s.; 1½s. to 1s. 3s. to 1s. 4s. to 1s. 5s. to 1s. 6s. to 1s. 7s. to 1s. 8s. to 1s. 9s. to 1s. 10s. to 1s. 11s. to 1s. 12s. to 1s. 13s. to 1s. 14s. to 1s. 15s. to 1s. 16s. to 1s. 17s. to 1s. 18s. to 1s. 19s. to 1s. 20s. to 1s. 21s. to 1s. 22s. to 1s. 23s. to 1s. 24s. to 1s. 25s. to 1s. 26s. to 1s. 27s. to 1s. 28s. to 1s. 29s. to 1s. 30s. to 1s. 31s. to 1s. 32s. to 1s. 33s. to 1s. 34s. to 1s. 35s. to 1s. 36s. to 1s. 37s. to 1s. 38s. to 1s. 39s. to 1s. 40s. to 1s. 41s. to 1s. 42s. to 1s. 43s. to 1s. 44s. to 1s. 45s. to 1s. 46s. to 1s. 47s. to 1s. 48s. to 1s. 49s. to 1s. 50s. to 1s. 51s. to 1s. 52s. to 1s. 53s. to 1s. 54s. to 1s. 55s. to 1s. 56s. to 1s. 57s. to 1s. 58s. to 1s. 59s. to 1s. 60s. to 1s. 61s. to 1s. 62s. to 1s. 63s. to 1s. 64s. to 1s. 65s. to 1s. 66s. to 1s. 67s. to 1s. 68s. to 1s. 69s. to 1s. 70s. to 1s. 71s. to 1s. 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